COVID surge possible

Experts are watching for a potential new COVID-19 surge in the U.S. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Israel to host summit

Diplomats from U.S., United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco to meet. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

NCAA women's tourney

Huskies face Indiana in bid for 15th straight Elite Eight appearance. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Cloudy

Chance for afternoon showers; high of 55. **SPORTS, PAGE 10**

Hartford Courant

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CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT

Justices: Speech qualified as threat

Ruling states Danbury man is not protected by First Amendment in day care center argument

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The state Supreme Court has ruled against a Danbury man in a free speech case, concluding that even though he may not have been explicitly threatening in an argument with staff at a day care center, he is not entitled to First Amendment protection because his physical movements, past confrontation with the staff and demeanor in general were.

The high-court decision Friday reverses the state Appellate Court and could result in an additional prison sentence for the father, Kerlyn M. Taveras. Taveras, who has previously been convicted on threatening and assault charges, is currently in prison on unrelated charges.

He was convicted of breach of peace for threatening speech during the day care argument in March 2014, and the Supreme Court decision could result in a violation of his probation imposed on other criminal charges.

The unanimous Supreme Court decision, written by Justice Maria Araujo Kahn, turns on when otherwise obnoxious speech crosses a line to threats and the speaker loses constitutional free speech protection. When considering what is a threat, the court said it is permissible to consider the context in which the speech occurs.

The standard for what is threatening, according to the decision, is "whether a reasonable person would foresee that the statement would be interpreted by those to whom the maker communicates the statement as a serious expression of intent to harm or assault ..."

A trial judge said Taveras' language was threatening, a divided Appellate Court disagreed and the high court disagreed again. Unlike the Appellate Court, the Supreme Court considered the entirety of Taveras' behavior.

Mitchell Brody, the senior appellate lawyer who pressed the appeal for the state Division of Criminal Justice, called the high court's analysis an important step

Turn to Court, *Page 3*

Hartford mothers Maria Lopez, left, and Nancy Woodberry hug after a news conference to announce a $300,000 federal grant being awarded to Mothers United Against Violence. Lopez's 20-year-old son, Christian, died last month from gun violence in Hartford, and Woodberry's son, Lauren Northup, 37, remains in critical condition at Saint Francis Hospital after being shot multiple times Feb. 10. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

'This is a blessing'

Mothers United Against Violence in Hartford awarded $300K federal grant

By Alex Putterman | Hartford Courant

For years, Deborah Davis and her colleagues at Mothers United Against Violence have sought to help people at the worst moments of their lives. They have organized vigils for victims of gun violence in Hartford, provided emotional support to grieving parents and guided victims through an often-intimidating criminal justice system.

So at a press conference Friday to announce a $300,000 federal grant to expand Mothers United Against Violence's programming, Davis couldn't help but get emotional.

"This is a blessing on the city of Hartford, and this is history in the making," said Davis, director of project development and management for Mothers United Against Violence. "This grant is going to help us to help our community."

The new grant money will go toward the organization's Victim Impact Project, which supports families who have lost loved ones and helps them navigate the

Turn to Mothers, *Page 2*

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, left, and Rep. John Larson listen during a news conference as Deborah Davis, of Mothers United Against Violence, speaks about receiving a Community Funding Project federal grant. "I literally shed a tear almost every day because when we go out to see a family, and when we go out to embrace a family it's real for us," Davis said.

WAR IN UKRAINE

State prepares to take refugees

Connecticut groups say 'we're ready' as US is set to welcome 100K

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Connecticut-based refugee services and community organizations are preparing to ramp up efforts to support an influx of Ukrainian refugees after President Joe Biden on Thursday announced the United States would accept up to 100,000 people displaced following the invasion of Russian forces.

"We're preparing here, reaching back out and continuing conversations with our partners that help us with resettlement," said Susan Schnitzer, president and CEO of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. "We're ready."

What happens next?

Connecticut's main refugee settlement organizations said they're still waiting for further details from the federal government, but that Ukrainian refugees will enter the country in one of three main ways.

The bulk of refugees will likely enter through the traditional refugee resettlement program, which in Connecticut is overseen by the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) and the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI).

Other pathways include the federal government's humanitarian parole program, or the normal immigration process, in which a refugee's family member applies for a visa.

The 100,000 Ukrainian refugees the United States could welcome compares to the roughly 76,000 refugees from Afghanistan who were resettled domestically in the months following America's withdrawal

Turn to Refugees, *Page 3*

Historic church is in line for state funds

The historic Liberty Christian Center International Church in Hartford's North End has seen an acceleration in the decay of its steeple and portico in recent years. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Liberty Christian Center in Hartford's North End will get $1M grant to help fix decaying structures

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A historic church in Hartford's North End whose congregation didn't have the money to repair the worsening decay of its steeple and portico is now in line for a $1 million state grant for the project.

"I'm elated, elated because all we had was the ability to connect with God, to pray and to ask God to send us the resources, send us the help, and he did that," said Corey James, the pastor of Liberty Christian Center International at Albany Avenue and Vine Street.

James said the grant will boost a restoration that will be a significant and high-profile example of investment in the city's North End.

"This structure will be something that everyone in the neighborhood can look to as an example of neighborhood beautification, but also an example of what we want the North End of Hartford to look like," James said. "So the church is ecstatic."

James said a capital fundraising campaign will still be necessary, with one estimate of the cost of repairs at $1.5 million.

Turn to Church, *Page 2*

State residents urged to 'be bear aware'

Connecticut's black bear population is on the move and hungry. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection advises people to "be bear aware" to reduce potential conflicts with the large and powerful omnivores. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Mothers

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justice system. Davis said the funding will allow Mothers United Against Violence to hire additional staff and offer more resources to grieving families.

The Rev. Henry Brown, who co-founded the organization alongside Henrietta Beckman in 2003, said the federal grant felt like a culmination of nearly two decades of work.

"The mothers have been in this fight for so long, for too long," Brown said. "They did it when the cameras weren't here, they did it when they weren't getting any funding, but they were out there every day, trying to work with families that had experienced the worst thing a family can experience."

Davis, Brown and Beckman were joined at Friday's press conference by Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, Rep. John Larson, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Hartford police Chief Jason Thody.

Blumenthal said he hopes the grant, which was included in the recently passed federal spending bill, will help demonstrate the value of grassroots groups like Mothers United Against Violence.

"It's a proof of concept," Blumenthal said. "It's a beginning that will spread this idea that you reach out to people that have just gone through an experience that no one should have to endure."

Davis spoke Friday about the pain that accompanies violence and the need to care for families of those hurt or killed.

"I literally shed a tear almost everyday because when we go out to see a family, and when we go out to embrace a family, it's real for us," Davis said. "And so we want to make sure that even after that trauma is over, with them going into the hospital and then finding closure for their cases, we want to make sure that they are now sustainable."

Mothers United Against Violence's leaders credited Larson with securing the new federal funding. The congressman said he'd been

"Here are all of these women who have had their own personal losses and tragedies, and yet rather than sitting back, they move forward to help everybody out."

— State Rep. John Larson

inspired by a walking tour Brown and Beckman had given him, during which they explained their work and their purpose.

"They win over your hears immediately because of their devotion," Larson said. "Here are all of these women who have had their own personal losses and tragedies, and yet rather than sitting back, they move forward to help everybody out."

Larson said he liked how Mothers United Against Violence collaborated with police and admired their passion.

"This is a model for the country," he said.

Gun violence in Hartford has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, statistics from the city show, and has been particularly prevalent in under-resourced Black neighborhoods. According to a consultant hired by the city, Hartford recorded 461 shootings, 63 of which were fatal, between Jan. 1, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2021, more than most comparable cities in the region.

At Friday's press conference, Murphy, who has been one of Washington's loudest advocates for gun control, again called for tighter gun laws, while also urging greater investment in programs that address the root causes of violence.

"Everybody in this room knows that gun laws are not enough," he said. "If you don't give kids a pathway out of poverty, out of the cycle of violence, changing the gun laws won't do it."

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Church leaders Pastor Corey James, left, and Rodney Powell stand outside Liberty Christian Center International Church in Hartford's North End. Powell estimates repairs on the exterior to be $1.5 million. **MARK MIRKO / HARTFORD COURANT**

Church

from Page 1

But James said he hopes the restoration work will begin this fall, after a study. The work could take 18 to 24 months, he said.

The troubles of the decaying steeple and its rotting pediment were well-known to the interdenominational congregation of 150 families, affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

But the worsening condition of its building, the former Horace Bushnell Congregational Church, came into the spotlight a month ago when the 1914, Georgian Revival-style church was listed on the Hartford Preservation Alliance's annual Top 10 list of endangered buildings in Hartford.

The legislature's Speaker of the House of Representatives, Matt Ritter, a Hartford Democrat, read about the church's plight in a Courant story about the alliance's list.

"It's important in a city like ours, where we have lost historic buildings," Ritter said. "It was heartbreaking to read that. As membership has declined at a lot of churches, it makes it harder to do building projects."

Ritter, who led the push to get the project on next week's bond commission agenda, said he wasn't sure there would be support for such a project.

But there was a record of state investment in historic churches. Liberty Christian Center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"So it wasn't the first time we'd done something like this," Ritter said.

The grant, however, would be among the largest in recent memory for a historic church building.

Ritter also said the church is a community space serving as a polling place. The church also is active in outreach to the community, ranging from its food pantry to recent hosting of coronavirus vaccination clinics.

Gov. Ned Lamont, who chairs the bond commission and sets its agenda, praised the church as a "pillar of the community serving the youngest children, setting them up for success, while ensuring those who are hungry have food through their pantry."

"The bond commission is about strengthening our neighborhoods, and these funds being directed to the Liberty Christian Center do just that," Lamont said.

Approval by the bond commission is all but assured. Once an item appears on the commission agenda, there is agreement on the project.

Mary A. Falvey, the alliance's executive director, praised the state's investment in the historic structure, whose steeple and portico were actually part of an earlier church that once existed on Main Street.

"This is exactly what we want this endangered building list to do: bring forth resources and people to help us out," Falvey said Thursday. "We're thrilled."

Church officials have said the basic structure of the church is still sound, but deterioration of the decorative architectural elements that distinguish the church has accelerated in the past three years or so.

In that time a column adorning the base of the steeple blew off in a wind storm; rot has spread deeper into the facade's pediment and cornice; and netting once intended to keep away pigeons is now catching bits and pieces of the portico ceiling that have fallen away.

The decay on the exterior of the building, however, contrasts starkly with the church building's well-preserved interior worship space.

James said the alliance's listing also brought interest from former church members who are willing to participate in a capital fundraising campaign.

"They do want to see this historical structure renovated and repaired," James said.

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LOTTERY
Friday, March 25

PLAY3 DAY
9 0 2 **WB:** 6

PLAY4 DAY
0 1 7 1 **WB:** 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
1 4 0 **WB:** 1

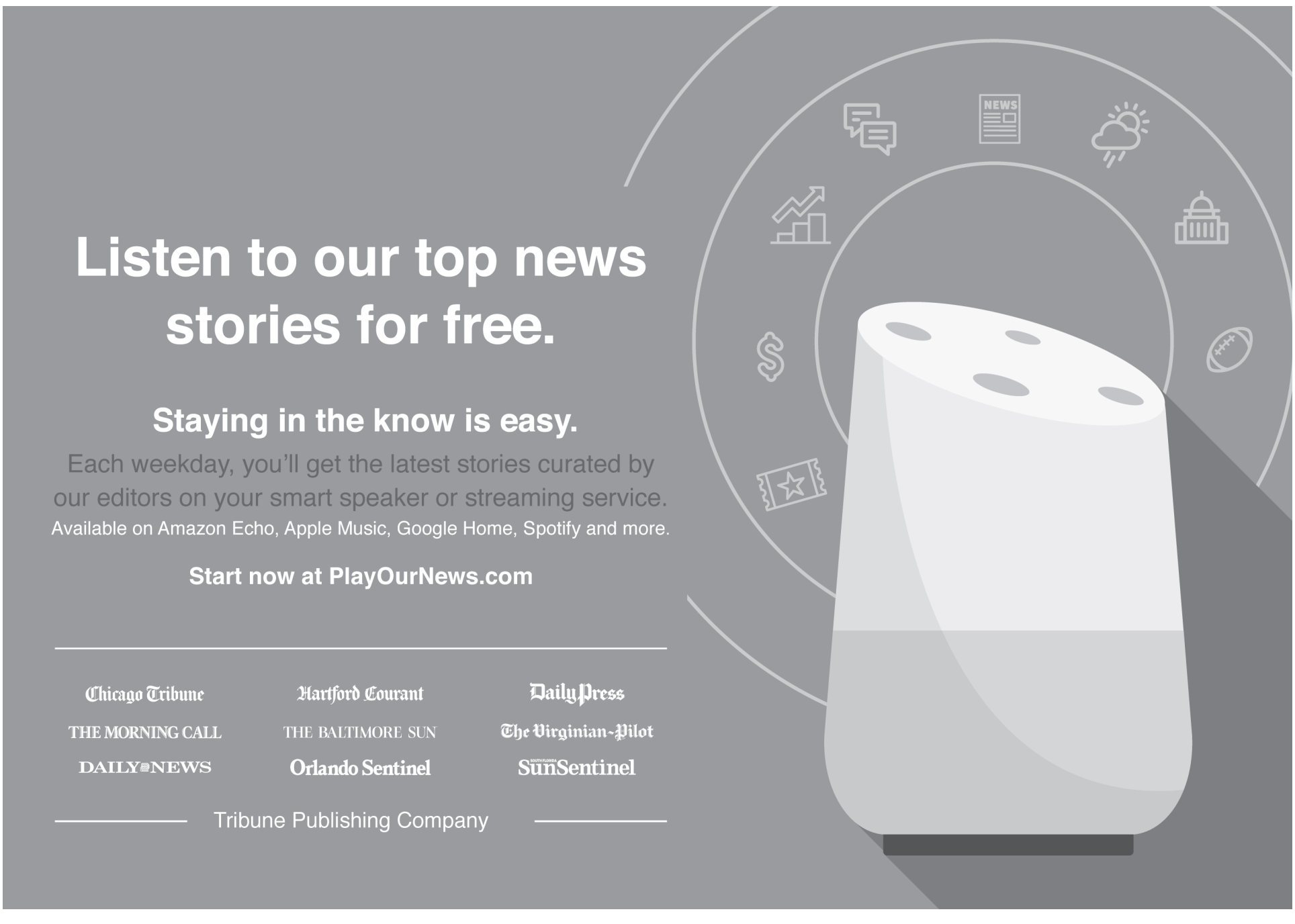
PLAY4 NIGHT
3 1 8 7 **WB:** 9

CASH 5
10 11 13 25 35

LUCKY FOR LIFE
11 12 19 26 46 **LB:** 12

Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.5 million

Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot:
$181 million



FROM PAGE ONE

NEWS BRIEFING

Supreme Court gives Biden a win for now in Navy vaccine case

From news services

The Supreme Court is giving the Navy a freer hand determining what job assignments it gives to 35 sailors who sued after refusing on religious grounds to comply with an order to get COVID-19 vaccinations.

The high court on Friday sided with the Biden administration and said that while the lawsuit plays out, the Navy may consider the sailors' vaccination status in making deployment, assignment and other operational decisions. The group that sued includes mostly Navy SEALs.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote that there was a "simple overarching reason" that he agreed with the court's decision. The Constitution makes the president, "not any federal judge," the commander in chief of the armed forces, he wrote, noting that courts have been traditionally "reluctant to intrude upon the authority of the Executive in military and national security affairs."

Conservative justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch noted that they disagreed with their colleagues' decision.

Alito wrote that his colleagues were "rubber-stamping the Government's request."

"These individuals appear to have been treated shabbily by the Navy, and the Court brushes all that aside," Alito also wrote.

A federal judge in Texas in January issued a preliminary injunction barring the Navy from acting against the sailors. The Biden administration said it was not asking the Supreme Court to block parts of the lower court order barring the sailors from being disciplined or discharged but only the requirement that their assignments be made without considering their vaccination status. That requirement posed "intolerable risks to safety and mission success," the administration had argued.

"Navy personnel routinely operate for extended periods of time in confined spaces that are ripe breeding grounds for respiratory illnesses, where mitigation measures such as distancing are impractical or impossible. A SEAL who falls ill not only cannot complete his or her own mission, but risks infecting others as well, particularly in close quarters, including on submarines," Biden administration lawyers wrote.

Justice Thomas discharged: Justice Clarence Thomas, who had been hospitalized for the past week, was discharged Friday morning, the Supreme Court said.

After experiencing flu-like symptoms, Thomas, the longest-serving member of the Supreme Court, was admitted to Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington on March 18, the court said Sunday. A statement Friday offered no additional details.

According to the court's Sunday statement, Thomas underwent tests and was told he had an infection, which was treated with intravenous antibiotics. It was not clear what type of infection he had.

Patricia McCabe, a spokeswoman for the court, did not immediately respond to an inquiry Friday for more information about Thomas' condition, but she said Sunday that his illness was not COVID-19 or related to the coronavirus.

Oil depot fire: Smoke rises from a burning oil depot Friday in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. State television in the kingdom said a "hostile operation," acknowledged by Yemen's Houthis, targeted the depot, which stores diesel fuel, gasoline and jet fuel. The blaze was about 7 miles from the site of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, a Formula One race scheduled for Sunday. HASSAN AMMAR/AP

Haiti slaying suspect: A former Haitian senator who is one of the main suspects in the slaying of former President Jovenel Moise has agreed to be extradited to the U.S. to face charges, his attorney said.

It wasn't immediately clear when John Joel Joseph, who was arrested in Jamaica in January, would be extradited, defense attorney Donahue Martin said. He added that Joseph's wife and two sons have requested asylum in Jamaica and are still awaiting a response.

Martin declined to comment on the extradition agreement, and no further details were immediately available. Haitian government officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Two other suspects in the case — Haitian-Chilean businessman Rodolphe Jaar and Colombian soldier Mario Antonio Palacios — were recently extradited to the U.S. to face charges. Jaar was arrested in the Dominican Republic in January and Palacios was arrested in Jamaica in October.

Ice shelf collapse: An ice shelf the size of New York City has collapsed in East Antarctica, an area long thought to be stable and not hit much by climate change, concerned scientists said Friday.

The collapse, captured by satellite images, marked the first time in human history that the frigid region had an ice shelf collapse. It happened at the beginning of a freakish warm spell last week when temperatures soared more than 70 degrees warmer than normal in parts of East Antarctica.

Satellite photos show the area had been shrinking rapidly the last couple of years, and now scientists wonder if they have been overestimating East Antarctica's stability and resistance to global warming that has been melting ice rapidly on the smaller western side and the vulnerable peninsula.

NKorea tension: The United States said Friday it would seek tougher U.N. Security Council sanctions on North Korea after it test-fired its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile, with leader Kim Jong Un vowing to expand his country's "nuclear war deterrent" while preparing for a "long-standing confrontation" with the United States.

North Korean state media reported the North's first long-range test since 2017, and South Korea and Japan said they detected it. Thursday's launch extended a barrage of weapons demonstrations this year that analysts say are aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and remove crippling sanctions.

At U.N. headquarters Friday, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the U.S. would propose a measure "to update and strengthen" Security Council sanctions that were originally imposed after the North's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and were tightened over the years.

Refugees

from Page 1

and the Taliban's entry into Kabul.

One key difference between the two resettlement efforts will be timing. Connecticut resettled about 700 Afghan refugees in the space of about five months, Schnitzer said, as states rushed to find housing for thousands of evacuees who were airlifted out of Kabul to U.S. military bases.

The timeline for Ukrainian resettlement could be up to a year and a half, as most of the estimate 3.5 million refugees have found relative safety in other European countries.

The majority of the Ukrainian refugees entering the United States will likely be those with relatives already here, according to Chris George, executive director of IRIS, which has doubled its staff in the last year.

George said IRIS gets information from the White House and the U.S. Department of State through the Church World Service, one of nine national organizations that serve as intermediaries for on-the-ground refugee settlement groups.

A family from Ukraine waits for transportation to a nearby refugee center after arriving in the border village of Palanca in eastern Moldova on Tuesday. Bowing to domestic and international pressure, President Joe Biden said Thursday that the United States would accept up to 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine and donate $1 billion to help European countries facing a humanitarian crisis not seen on the continent since the end of World War II. MAURICIO LIMA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ukrainian communities in Connecticut

The United States' Ukrainian community is fairly widespread, according to Alexander Kuzma, a Connecticut resident and chief development officer for the Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation. The Chicago-based foundation is a funding source for the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, the largest city in western Ukraine.

Kuzma said the university has in recent weeks transformed into a de facto refugee camp, housing more than 500 refugees from the country's war-torn regions to the east as evacuees move west to Poland, Slovakia and other border countries. Meanwhile, about half of the university students continue to take classes online.

For refugees with family ties to the U.S., the number who eventually come to Connecticut will be based on how many residents have family members in Ukraine.

Connecticut is home to about 20,000 Ukrainians or people of Ukrainian descent, Kuzma said, with heavier concentrations in Greater Hartford and New Britain in particular.

Hartford is home to Zolotyj Promin, a Ukrainian dance ensemble, and a Ukrainian cultural school. Similar schools also exist in Bridgeport, New Haven and Stamford, with Ukrainian churches in Bridgeport, Colchester and Terryville.

Biden on Thursday acknowledged that many refugees may prefer to resettle somewhere closer to home. More than 2 million refugees have resettled in Poland, which shares a border with Ukraine, of the estimated 3.5 million who have fled since the beginning of the invasion.

Kuzma believes these estimations are accurate. "From what we've been hearing, many people are wanting to stay near Poland and Slovakia," he said.

"The hope is that they can go back and rebuild the country," Kuzma said. "We don't know how long this war is going to last, but that's the priority."

Support from state leaders

Gov. Ned Lamont, members of Connecticut's congressional delegation and other state leaders have widely applauded the White House's humanitarian response to the conflict.

"Connecticut has a proud history of welcoming those in need, and we will welcome with open arms those Ukrainians seeking refuge from the death and destruction caused by the unjustified and unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine," Lamont said.

In addition to the 100,000 refugees, the U.S. will provide $1 billion in food, medicine and other aid in addition to the $13.6 billion in assistance for Ukraine passed in a $1.5 trillion spending bill in early March.

"I continue to support increased humanitarian aid and provision of lethal arms to end this conflict as quickly as possible," said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who recently visited the border between Poland and Ukraine.

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy called the plan a "step in the right direction," and issued support for welcoming more refugees from other countries. "Connecticut stands ready to do our part to help these refugees," he said.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro said the U.S. has "a moral responsibility" to welcome refugees from Ukraine. U.S. Reps. Jim Himes and Jahana Hayes also supported efforts to mitigate the humanitarian crisis.

What can people do to help?

In addition to offering aid in the way of clothing, medicine and supply drives, George encouraged Connecticut residents to form community groups, which IRIS uses to help provide wrap-around services to newly settled refugees.

These community groups, which are trained and co-sponsored by IRIS, are tasked with helping refugees find affordable housing, get their children enrolled in school, find transportation, look for employment and access English language training.

"That's the most valuable assistance people can give," George said.

Schnitzer added that CIRI is looking for more immigration attorneys to volunteer to help with their immigration services, which now serves about 2,500 people, and counting, every year.

Not everyone has training in immigration law, nor the capacity to form a community group, but she says anyone can help.

"Be welcoming to people in your community," Schnitzer said. "Help your community become a place that accepts newcomers."

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Court

from Page 1

in the development of First Amendment law in the state.

Brody said the court decided there is a larger context for threatening behavior — beyond narrow analysis of language.

"It's academic on a personal level because Taveras is in prison and it won't affect him," Brody said. "It is not academic for the purposes of First Amendment jurisprudence."

Taveras' lawyer could not be reached.

The record in the case shows that Taveras arrived 40 minutes late to pick up the child at the day care center and was angry because the staff had called to remind him. At the time he had completed a jail sentence and was on probation for three prior convictions, two for threatening and one for assault.

On the way out of the center he began arguing with staff, the decision says.

As he left through a set of locking doors, a staff member said something to Taveras and, in reply, he turned and said, "You better watch yourself. You better be careful" and, according to another witness, "You better watch your back," the decision says.

The staff said he tried to reenter the center, but the doors had locked and he left

The center director said she had seen Taveras act in an allegedly threatening manner before, the decision says. In fact, although she wasn't present when the confrontation began, she returned when told that Tavaras was going to be late because she "knew it would get escalated."

Upon arrival, she said she saw that members of the staff were "shaken up" and "concerned" by what had transpired. She said she called the police and left instructions that Tavaras be barred from the center. She also began pursuing a restraining order and hiring additional security personnel.

Taveras met with the the police the next day. He was charged with breach of peace and told he would be arrested for trespassing if he returned to the center.

During a probation hearing, a Superior Court judge said Taveras had violated his probation. The judge said his conduct had been of a "threatening nature and demeanor," and he rejected the defense argument that the incident had been nothing more than "person being upset with the way a day care handles his child."

The Supreme Court agreed.

"The defendant's history at the preschool, his general demeanor during the course of this particular incident itself, and the subsequent reactions of the preschool's staff, on balance, appear objectively to indicate the threat of the possibility of violence," the court said in its decision.

WORLD&NATION
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Potential virus surge spurs worry

US experts unsure how long it may take to be detected here

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

An elementary school student is given an at-home COVID-19 test on Feb. 11 in Sacramento, California. **RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP**

NEW YORK — As coronavirus infections rise in some parts of the world, experts are watching for a potential new COVID-19 surge in the U.S. — and wondering how long it will take to detect.

Despite disease monitoring improvements over the last two years, they say, some recent developments don't bode well:

- As more people take rapid COVID-19 tests at home, fewer people are getting the gold-standard tests that the government relies on for case counts.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will soon use fewer labs to look for new variants.
- Health officials are increasingly focusing on hospital admissions, which rise only after a surge has arrived.
- White House officials say the government is running out of funds for vaccines, treatments and testing.

"We're not in a great situation," said Jennifer Nuzzo, a Brown University pandemic researcher.

Scientists acknowledge that the wide availability of vaccines and treatments puts the nation in a better place than when the pandemic began, and that monitoring has come a long way.

For example, scientists this week touted a 6-month-old program that tests international travelers flying into four U.S. airports. Genetic testing of a sample on Dec. 14 turned up the descendant of omicron known as BA.2 seven days earlier than any other reported detection in the U.S.

More good news: U.S. cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been falling for weeks.

But it's different elsewhere. The World Health Organization this week reported that the number of new coronavirus cases increased two weeks in a row globally, likely because COVID-19 prevention measures have been halted in numerous countries and because BA.2 spreads more easily.

BA.2 accounts for a growing share of U.S. cases, the CDC said — more than one-third nationally and more than half in the Northeast.

Some northern U.S. states with the highest rates of BA.2, however, have some of the lowest case rates, noted Katriona Shea of Penn State University.

Dr. James Musser, an infectious disease specialist at Houston Methodist, called the national case data on BA.2 "murky." He added: "What we really need is as much real-time data as possible."

For COVID-19 trackers, tallies of test results have been at the core of understanding coronavirus spread from the start, but the data has always been flawed.

Initially, only sick people got tested, meaning case counts missed people who had no symptoms or were unable to get swabbed.

Home test kits became widely available last year, and demand took off when the omicron wave hit. But many people who take home tests don't report results to anyone. Nor do health agencies attempt to gather them.

Hospital admissions have also been a lagging indicator, given that a week or more can pass between infection and hospitalization. Nevertheless, a number of researchers say hospital data is still more reliable and more easily interpreted than case counts and welcomed the CDC's decision last month to outline a new set of measures for deciding whether to lift mask-wearing rules, focusing less on positive test results and more on hospitals.

Spencer Fox, a University of Texas data scientist who is part of a group that uses hospital and cellphone data to forecast COVID-19 for Austin, said "hospital admissions were the better signal" for a surge than test results.

There are concerns, however, about future hospital data.

If the federal government lifts its public health emergency declaration, officials will lose the ability to compel hospitals to report COVID-19 data, a group of former CDC directors recently wrote. They urged Congress to pass a law that will provide enduring authorities "so we will not risk flying blind as health threats emerge."

Of course, one of the gravest threats, researchers say, is the possibility that the virus will evolve to a more easily transmittable or lethal strain.

In early 2021, the U.S. was far behind other countries in using genetic tests to look for worrisome virus mutations.

But a year ago, the CDC signed deals with 10 large labs to do that genomic sequencing. The agency will be reducing that program to three labs over the next two months.

The weekly volume of sequences performed through the contracts was much higher during the omicron wave in December and January and already has fallen to about 35,000. By late spring, it will be down to 10,000, although CDC officials say the contracts allow the volume to increase to more than 20,000 if necessary.

The agency also says turnaround time and quality standards have been improved in the new contracts, and that it does not expect the change will hurt its ability to find new variants.

Outside experts expressed concern.

"It's really quite a substantial reduction in our baseline surveillance and intelligence system for tracking what's out there," said Bronwyn MacInnis, director of pathogen genomic surveillance at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Israel, 3 Arab diplomats set for historic summit

US to also meet with leaders of Bahrain, Morocco and UAE

By Patrick Kingsley
The New York Times

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, right, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet three Arab diplomats in a summit this weekend in Israel. **OLIVIER DOULIERY/GETTY-AFP POOL**

JERUSALEM — Israel will host a historic summit this weekend with the top diplomats from the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Bahrain, a sign of how quickly the realignment of Middle Eastern powers is accelerating as Israelis and some Arab governments find common cause not only over Iran but in navigating the new global realities created by the Ukraine war.

Unimaginable half a decade ago, the high-level meeting reflects the new political reality created when Israel sealed landmark diplomatic agreements with the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco in 2020. Planned for Sunday and Monday, it is set to be the first meeting with top officials from three Arab countries on Israeli soil, and highlights how Israel — which needed the United States to help broker the 2020 accords — can now become a bridge between Washington and certain Arab governments.

The groundbreaking visit will add the three foreign ministers to a very short list of high-level Arab visitors to Israel — starting with Anwar Sadat, the Egyptian president who shocked Israelis by flying to Israel in 1977 and calling for peace in an address to the Knesset. Hosni Mubarak, Sadat's successor, visited in 1995 to deliver a eulogy at the funeral of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. King Hussein of Jordan also visited Israel several times, including for Rabin's funeral.

The upcoming meeting will provide a forum to discuss both disagreements and shared concerns about the Ukraine war; the possibility of a new nuclear deal with Iran; and the need to avoid a surge of violence in Israel and the occupied territories next month, when three important Jewish, Muslim and Christian holidays will overlap.

The Israeli foreign minister, Yair Lapid, will host the conference, which his ministry said Friday would bring together U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, and Nasser Bourita, their Moroccan counterpart.

The planned gathering demonstrates how relations between these countries and Israel have moved far beyond symbolism, said Yoel Guzansky, a former Israeli official and an expert on the Gulf at the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli research group.

"In many ways, Israel is the center — the epicenter — of all kinds of developments that are taking place," Guzansky said. "Israel is the go-between, not just between Russia and Ukraine, but apparently between some of the Arab countries and Washington."

The meeting will take place against the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and will give Blinken a chance to encourage Washington's Middle East allies to align with U.S. efforts to isolate Russia.

Like Saudi Arabia, the UAE has come under heavy U.S. pressure to raise its oil production to help reduce the world's reliance on Russian gas. It also angered Washington by abstaining from a U.S.-backed U.N. Security Council resolution denouncing Russia's invasion, and also by recently welcoming President Bashar Assad of Syria, whose diplomatic isolation the United States is seeking to maintain.

Israel — though praised by Washington for its role in mediating between Russia and Ukraine — has also avoided sanctioning Russia or condemning it too harshly. And Morocco, which relies on grain supplies from both Russia and Ukraine and is facing a growing economic crisis, has also resisted U.S. expectations to condemn the Russian invasion.

The meeting also comes as Western-led negotiations are trying persuade Iran to scale back its nuclear program — an effort Israel has criticized because it fears this will lead to a deal that does not adequately restrict Iran.

It has become increasingly clear that shared fears of a nuclear Iran — as well as shared concerns about the perceived retreat of the United States from the region, and the opportunities afforded by greater economic ties between Israel and the Arab world — now seem to be a greater priority for several Arab governments than an immediate resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Israel is the only one that, kinetically perhaps, is taking on Iran — in Syria, in Iraq, in Lebanon, in Iran itself," Guzansky said.

Israel was ostracized for years by all but two Arab countries, Egypt and Jordan, as much of the Arab world refused to normalize ties until the creation of a Palestinian state.

But that changed in 2020, when Israel established diplomatic relations with the UAE and Bahrain and reestablished them with Morocco.

In signal of Dems' unity, Manchin backs nominee Jackson

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, a nominee for the Supreme Court, testifies Wednesday. **ALEX BRANDON/AP**

By Carl Hulse
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Sen. Joe Manchin said Friday he would vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court, signaling that Democrats are uniting behind her after a bruising set of hearings that showed deep opposition by Republicans.

The backing of Manchin, a centrist Democrat from West Virginia and a crucial swing vote, appeared to all but ensure Jackson's confirmation. Manchin's support was critical, since all 50 Senate Democrats may be needed to approve her nomination, given that few if any Republicans appear ready to support her in a vote Democrats hope to hold early next month.

Manchin had previously said he would be willing to support a Biden administration nominee with a more liberal perspective than his, but he had not specifically said he would vote for Jackson before a statement Friday.

"After meeting with her, considering her record, and closely monitoring her testimony and questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, I have determined I intend to vote for her nomination to serve on the Supreme Court," Manchin said.

Some conservatives tried to put pressure on him to oppose Jackson, pointing to what they claimed was a record of leniency in sentencing child sex offenders and charging that she was a liberal activist on abortion rights — which Manchin opposes — transgender rights and matters of race.

Democrats and others debunked the sentencing claims as distorted, and Manchin seemed to dismiss them as well.

"Judge Jackson's record and career are exemplary," he said. "Her wide array of experiences in varying sectors of our judicial system have provided Judge Jackson a unique perspective that will serve her well on our nation's highest court."

Chances of Republican support seem very limited, with Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska seen as the most likely prospects. Neither has made public her decision.

If no Republicans vote to confirm Jackson, Vice President Kamala Harris would be required to break a 50-50 tie in order to place her on the court.

WAR IN UKRAINE

US: Russia signals shift in war aims

Biden visits GIs in Poland; Ukraine says 300 dead in theater

By Nebi Qena and Andrea Rosa
Associated Press

President Joe Biden meets with members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division on Friday near Rzeszow, Poland, where they have been deployed to assist refugees who fled Ukraine after Russia invaded on Feb. 24. **DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

KYIV, Ukraine — In what could become an important narrowing of Moscow's war aims, the U.S. said Friday that Russian forces appear to have halted, at least for now, their ground offensive aimed at capturing the capital, Kyiv, and are concentrating more on gaining control of the Donbas region in the country's southeast — a shift the Kremlin seemed to confirm.

Col. Gen Sergei Rudskoi, deputy chief of the Russian general staff, said the main objective of the first stage of the operation — reducing Ukraine's fighting capacity — has "generally been accomplished," allowing Russian forces to focus on "the main goal, liberation of Donbas."

President Joe Biden landed in Poland on the second day of his trip to Europe, visiting some of the thousands of U.S. troops who have been sent near the border with Ukraine to assist with the humanitarian emergency and to bolster the U.S. military presence on the eastern flank of NATO.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities said Friday that about 300 people were killed in the Russian airstrike last week on a Mariupol theater that was being used as a shelter in what would make it the war's deadliest known attack on civilians yet.

The seeming shift in Moscow's stated military objectives — after weeks in which Russian President Vladimir Putin denied Ukraine's right to exist as a sovereign country and appeared bent on capturing many of its cities and toppling its government — could point to a possible exit strategy for Russia, which has run into fiercer resistance and suffered heavier losses than anticipated.

In fact, the Russians are no longer in full control of Kherson, the first major city to fall to Moscow's forces, a senior U.S. defense official said. The official said the southern city is being contested by the Ukrainians in heavy fighting. The Kremlin denied it had lost full control.

The Donbas is the largely Russian-speaking eastern part of the country where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014 and where many residents desire close ties to Moscow. Its coal-mining and industrial Donetsk and Luhansk regions are recognized by Russia as independent.

Britain's Ministry of Defense said Ukrainian forces have been counterattacking and have been able to reoccupy towns and defensive positions up to 22 miles east of Kyiv as Russian troops fall back on their overextended supply lines. In the south, logistical problems and Ukrainian resistance are slowing the Russians as they look to drive west toward the port of Odesa, the ministry said.

Arriving just 60 miles from Ukraine, Biden saluted Poland for welcoming more than 2 million refugees who have fled the war. Then he met with humanitarian experts on the ground about what will be needed to mitigate the growing suffering.

Biden said he wanted to visit Poland to underscore that the assistance it is providing is of "enormous consequence" as Europe experiences the biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

More than 3.5 million Ukrainians have fled the country since the Feb. 24 invasion, including about 2.2 million to Poland, according to the United Nations.

Biden's first stop was near Rzeszow airport with 82nd Airborne troops, at a barber shop and dining facility where he shared some pizza. The Americans are serving alongside Polish troops.

With the troops, he shared an anecdote about visiting his late son, Beau Biden, while he was deployed in Baghdad and going by his mother's maiden name so as not to draw attention to himself. The president jokingly razzed one service member about his standard-issue short haircut and seriously praised the troops too.

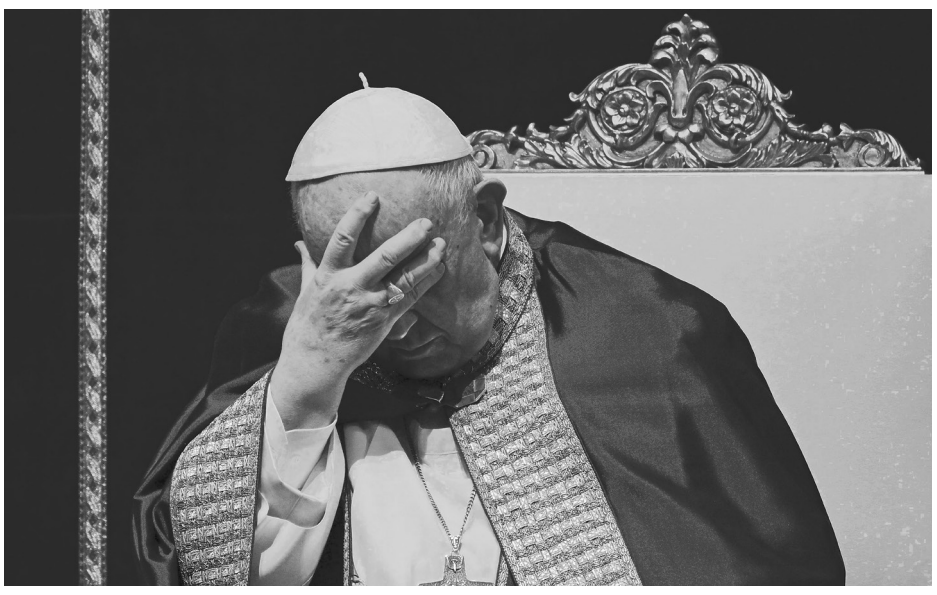
"You are the finest fighting force in the world and that's not hyperbole," said Biden, who will be in Warsaw on Saturday for further talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda and others.

For days, the government in the besieged and ruined port city was unable to give a casualty count for the March 16 bombardment of the grand, columned Mariupol Drama Theater, where hundreds of people were said to be taking cover, the word "CHILDREN" printed in Russian in huge white letters on the ground outside to ward off aerial attack.

In announcing the death toll on its Telegram channel Friday, the city government cited eyewitnesses. But it was not immediately clear how witnesses arrived at the figure or whether emergency workers had finished excavating the ruins.

The Ukrainian Parliament's human rights commissioner said soon after the attack that more than 1,300 people had taken shelter in the theater, many of them because their homes had been destroyed.

The building had a basement bomb shelter, and some survivors did emerge from the rubble after the attack.



Pope Francis prays Friday at St. Peter's Basilica. While Francis has signaled outrage, he's yet to publicly condemn Russia for its invasion of neighboring Ukraine. **VINCENZO PINTO/GETTY-AFP**

WAR IN UKRAINE

Pope's peace prayer recalls century-old Fatima prophecy

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

ROME — Pope Francis prayed for peace in Ukraine in a ceremony Friday that harked back to a century-old apocalyptic prophecy about peace and Russia that was sparked by purported visions of the Virgin Mary to three peasant children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

Francis invited bishops, priests and ordinary faithful around the world to join him in the consecration prayer, which opened with Francis entering St. Peter's Basilica before an estimated 3,500 people and concluded with Francis sitting alone before a statue of the Madonna. There, he solemnly asked forgiveness that humanity had "forgotten the lessons learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two World Wars."

"Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons," he prayed.

The service was Francis' latest effort to rally prayers for an end to the war while keeping open options for dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church and its influential leader, Patriarch Kirill. Francis has yet to publicly condemn Russia for its invasion, though his denunciations of the war in Ukraine have grown increasingly outraged.

The prayer ritual was of deep spiritual importance to many Catholics and a source of fascination to others. It deals with some of the more controversial aspects of the Catholic faith: purported visions of the Madonna, revelations of hell, Soviet communism and the death of a pope, and questions about whether the prophecies contained in the so-called "secrets of Fatima" have already been fulfilled or not.

The Fatima story dates to 1917, when according to tradition, Portuguese siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia said the Virgin Mary appeared to them six times and confided to them three secrets. The first two described an apocalyptic image of hell, foretold the end of World War I and the start of World War II, and portended the rise and fall of Soviet communism. The children were between 7 and 10 years old at the time.

In 2000, the Vatican disclosed the long-awaited third secret, describing it as foretelling the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt against St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Square.

According to later writings by Lucia, who became a nun and died in 2005, Russia would be converted and peace would reign if the pope and all the bishops of the world consecrated Russia to the "Immaculate Heart of Mary." Lucia later claimed that John Paul fulfilled that prophecy during a Mass on March 25, 1984, even though he never specified Russia in the prayer.

The text of Francis' prayer corrected that 1984 omission.

In his homily Friday, Francis said the act of consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Mary's immaculate heart was "not a magic formula, but a spiritual act" that was taking place "even as bombs are destroying the homes of many of our defenseless Ukrainian brothers and sisters."

WAR IN UKRAINE

Prominent Russians leave jobs in refusal to back war

Associated Press

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, right, shakes hands with Anatoly Chubais, his chief of staff. Chubais recently resigned from President Vladimir Putin's government. **AP 1996**

NEW YORK — The resignation of a senior Russian government official and his reported move abroad wasn't the first voluntary departure of a person from a state job since the start of Russia's war with Ukraine, but it certainly was one of the most striking.

Anatoly Chubais, who was President Vladimir Putin's envoy to international organizations on sustainable development, is well known in Russia. He held high profile posts for nearly three decades, beginning under Boris Yeltsin, the first post-Soviet leader.

A number of public figures have condemned the invasion of Ukraine and left their posts at state-run institutions and companies, which could signal divisions in Russia's official ranks over the war.

On Wednesday, the Kremlin confirmed media reports about the resignation of Anatoly Chubais, 66, who was the architect of Yeltsin's privatization campaign. The reports, citing anonymous sources, said he stepped down because of the war. He hasn't publicly commented on his resignation.

Under Yeltsin, Chubais reportedly recommended the administration hire Putin, a move that was widely seen as an important stepping stone in Putin's career. Putin became president of Russia in 2000, when Yeltsin stepped down.

Chubais also was deputy prime minister from 1994 to 1996 and first deputy prime minister from 1997 to 1998.

Some of the other high-profile figures who have turned their backs on the Kremlin because of the war are the following.

■ Arkady Dvorkovich once served as Russia's deputy prime minister and is currently chairman of the International Chess Federation, or FIDE. He criticized the war with Ukraine in comments made to Mother Jones magazine on March 14 and came under fire from the Kremlin's ruling party.

"Wars are the worst things one might face in life. Any war. Anywhere. Wars do not just kill priceless lives. Wars kill hopes and aspirations, freeze or destroy relationships and connections. Including this war," he said.

Two days after Dvorkovich's comments, a top official in the United Russia party demanded that he be fired as chair of the state-backed Skolkovo Foundation. Last week, the foundation reported that Dvorkovich decided to step down.

■ Lilia Gildeyeva was a longtime anchor at the state-funded NTV channel, which for two decades has carefully toed the Kremlin line. She quit the job and left Russia shortly after the Feb. 24 invasion.

She told the independent news site The Insider this week that news coverage on state TV channels was tightly controlled by the authorities. She admitted to going along with it since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea and began supporting a separatist insurgency in Ukraine.

"When you gradually give in to yourself, you don't notice the depth of the fall. And at some point, you find yourself face to face with the picture that leads to Feb. 24," she said.

■ Zhanna Agalakova was a journalist for another state-run TV channel, Channel One, spending more than 20 years there and working as an anchor and then a correspondent in Paris, New York and other Western countries. News reports about Agalakova quitting her job began emerging three weeks after the invasion.

Referring to the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the support of the separatists in Ukraine, she said that she "could not hide from the propaganda anymore," even as a foreign correspondent. Agalakova said she had to "only talk about the bad things happening in the U.S."

"My reports didn't contain lies, but that's exactly how propaganda works: You take reliable facts, mix them up, and a big lie comes together. Facts are true, but their mix is propaganda," she said.

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BUSINESS

War drives US-EU deal to undercut Russian energy

Biden offers major expansion of natural gas shipments to bloc counterpart

By Raf Casert
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — With stunning speed, Russia's war in Ukraine is driving Western Europe into the outstretched arms of the United States again, especially apparent when President Joe Biden offered a major expansion of natural gas shipments to his European Union counterpart Friday.

Talking to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Biden said the core issue was "helping Europe reduce its dependency on Russian gas as quickly as possible." And Europe, which relies on Moscow for 40% of the natural gas used to heat homes, generate electricity and drive industry, needs the help.

An economic miscalculation with massive geopolitical consequences, many European Union nations let themselves become ever more reliant on Russian fossil fuels over the years, hoping trade would overcome Cold War enmity on a continent too often riven by conflict.

That longstanding practice meant the 27-nation bloc could not simply stop Russian energy imports as part of Western sanctions to punish Moscow for the invasion a month ago.

And changing energy policy is about as cumbersome as turning around a liquefied natural gas carrier on a rough sea. In reality, it will take years.

This is where Biden stepped in Friday. Under the plan, the United States and a few like-minded partners will increase exports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, to Europe by 15 billion cubic meters this year. Those exports would triple in the years afterward, a necessary move if the EU can back up its claim to be rid of Russian imports in five years.

"We are right on track now to diversify away from Russian gas and towards our friends' and partners' reliable and trustworthy suppliers," von der Leyen said.

Still, getting more liquefied natural gas to Europe could be difficult. U.S. export facilities are already operating at capacity, and most new terminals are still only in the planning stages. Most U.S. shipments already go to Europe.

Even if more gas can be shipped to Europe, the continent may struggle to receive it. Import terminals are in coastal areas, and Europe's pipeline system doesn't have all the connections needed to send the natural gas throughout the continent.

But Europe is looking anywhere it can for solutions. Some countries — Germany, Italy and Bulgaria among them — are more heavily dependent on Russian gas than others, complicating efforts to agree on either a faster exit or a complete boycott now.

Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said an immediate embargo through energy sanctions would cost thousands of jobs and leave schools and homes unheated. Meanwhile, Europe must still replenish gas reserves that were heavily depleted during the past winter.

Its LNG requires export terminals that turn the gas into super-chilled liquid, then a reception terminal on the other end to turn it back into gas form to go into Europe's pipeline system. The terminals cost billions and take years to build.

Maine Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat, wants to send $850 to most residents as part of the state's budget bill. **ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP**

States may open purse strings

Lawmakers consider sending rebate checks to taxpayers to fight back against inflation

By Patrick Whittle
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — With inflation raging and state coffers flush with cash, governors and lawmakers across the U.S. are considering a simple solution to help ease the pain people are feeling at the gas pump and grocery store — sending money.

At least a dozen states have proposed giving rebate checks of several hundred dollars directly to taxpayers, among them California, Kansas and Minnesota. Critics, including many Republican lawmakers, say those checks won't go far enough given the pace of inflation and are pushing instead for permanent tax cuts.

A proposal from Maine Gov. Janet Mills is among the most generous in a state where the cost of food and fuel has skyrocketed in recent months. The Democratic governor wants to send $850 to most residents as part of the state's budget bill.

The rebate "will help Maine people grapple with these increased costs by putting money directly back into their pockets," Mills said.

But Wendell Cressey, a clamdigger in Harpswell, said the soaring cost of fuel for people in his business means the check will provide just temporary relief.

"It might help a little, but it would have to be a lot more because we're paying for gas." Cressey said.

In addition to the direct rebates, lawmakers and governors across the country are considering cuts to sales taxes, property tax relief and reducing or suspending state gas taxes.

The proposals when many states have too much money on their hands because of billions in federal pandemic aid and ballooning tax revenue. It's also happening as the war in Ukraine has compounded soaring prices for fuel and other essentials.

It's also no coincidence that the relief is being floated during an election year, said Mark Brewer, a political science professor at the University of Maine. Maine's governor's race is one of many closely watched state-level contests this year.

"There's some real policy reason to do this," Brewer said. "But at the same time, it's also clear that this is an election year, and in an election year there are few things as popular as giving voters what voters see as free money from the state."

The states are moving toward sending people money as consumer inflation has jumped nearly 8% over the past year. That was the sharpest spike since 1982.

Inflation boosted the typical family's food expenses by nearly $590 last year, according to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, a project of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School. Overall, the average family had to spend $3,500 more last year to buy the same amount of goods and services as they purchased in previous years.

Many states are awash with record amounts of cash. Measures enacted by Presidents Donald Trump in 2020 and Joe Biden last year allotted a combined total of over $500 billion to state and local governments. Some of that is waiting to be spent.

Those federal pandemic relief laws also provided stimulus checks to U.S. taxpayers, which helped boost consumer spending on goods subject to state and local sales taxes. From April 2021 to January 2022, total state tax revenues, adjusted for inflation, increased more than 19% compared to the same period a year earlier, according to a recent Urban Institute report.

US energy panel shifts climate impact plans

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid pushback from industry groups and lawmakers in both parties, federal energy regulators have scaled back plans to consider how natural gas projects affect climate change and environmental justice.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said a plan to consider climate effects will now be considered a draft and will only apply to future projects.

Opponents had criticized a proposal approved last month to tighten climate rules, saying it was poorly timed amid a push for increased natural gas exports following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell called the climate policy "baffling," while Senate Energy Committee Chairman Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said the agency's "reckless decision to add unnecessary roadblocks" to approval of natural gas projects "puts the security of our nation at risk."

"At a time when we should be looking for ways to expedite the approval of these important projects, the (energy) commission has chosen on a purely partisan basis to do the exact opposite," McConnell, R-Ky., wrote in a letter Thursday, hours before the panel backtracked on the climate proposal.

Climate activists accused FERC of bowing to political pressure, a claim FERC Chairman Richard Glick denied.

"I'm not going to do anything for political purposes," he said, adding that he and other commissioners have had discussions with numerous pipeline and natural gas companies since the panel approved the climate policy last month. Industry leaders told them the policy changes "raise additional questions that could benefit from further clarification," Glick said.

At a Feb. 17 meeting, the energy commission approved policy statements directing officials to consider how pipelines and other natural gas projects affect climate change and environmental justice.

The statements were approved on a 3-2 vote along party lines, with Glick and two other Democratic commissioners supporting the policy changes, and two Republicans opposed.

US and EU reach deal about data privacy

By Kelvin Chan and Chris Megerian
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union and United States made a breakthrough in their yearslong battle over the privacy of data that flows across the Atlantic with a preliminary agreement Friday that paves the way for Europeans' personal information to be stored in the U.S.

President Joe Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the deal during Biden's stop in Brussels while on a European tour amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Business groups hailed the announcement, saying it will provide relief to thousands of companies, including tech giants like Google and Facebook, that faced uncertainty over their ability to send data between the U.S. and Europe, which has much stricter regulations on data privacy.

The agreement came hours after EU officials agreed on sweeping new digital rules to rein in the power of big tech companies such as Facebook and Google.

The data covered includes "any information that we voluntarily provide or generate when using services and products online," said Alexandre Roure, an official with the tech trade group CCIA. That includes names, ID numbers and geolocation data, online identifiers like IP addresses and emails, and other information that tech companies use to target ads.

Separately, the landmark EU agreement to rein in online "gatekeepers" such as Google and Facebook parent Meta is part of a long-awaited overhaul of the bloc's digital rulebook. The act, which still needs other approvals, seeks to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets, with the threat of whopping fines or even the possibility of a company breakup.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Official addresses UK ferry firings

LONDON — Britain's transport secretary on Friday vowed to force a ferry operator to reverse the illegal firing of almost 800 workers.

Grant Shapps said he would introduce a package of legislation next week that would force companies like P&O Ferries to pay the U.K. minimum wage at sea, as well as on land.

P&O fired 786 seafarers last week and replaced them with crews supplied by a third party in an effort to slash staff costs.

P&O Chief Executive Peter Hebblethwaite told a parliamentary committee Thursday that the company knowingly violated the law. He said P&O knew unions wouldn't accept the plan so it decided to avoid a "sham" consultation process and compensate workers for the lack of advance warning.

UN labor agency selects Togo exec

GENEVA — The governing body of the U.N.'s labor agency has picked a Togo executive to be the agency's new leader and the first director-general from Africa.

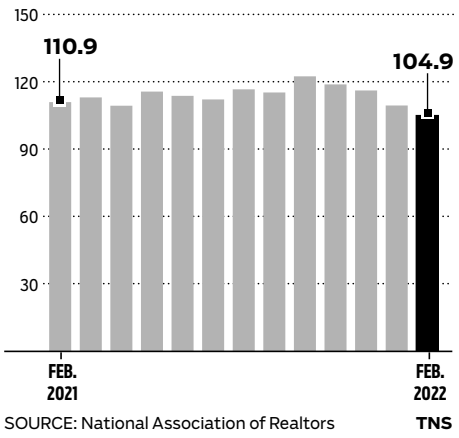
Members of the International Labor Organization's body, which brings together governments, workers and employers, voted Friday to select Gilbert Houngbo as its next chief.

Houngbo, the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, was chosen to replace Director-General Guy Ryder, who is completing his second five-year term. Houngbo will take the top job at the Geneva-based agency on Oct. 1.

Also in the running was Mthunzi Mdwaba of South Africa, a former employers' vice-chairperson of the ILO governing body.

Pending home sales

The Pending Home Sales Index, a measure of housing contract activity, fell 4.1 percent to 104.9 in February 2022.



SOURCE: National Association of Realtors TNS

BUSINESS

In a surprising partnership, Uber will list New York City taxi cabs on its app. Above, a woman hails a cab on Thursday in New York. **MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY**

Once unthinkable, Uber will list NYC taxi cabs on its app

By Michelle Chapman
Associated Press

Uber, hit by driver shortages and a surge in food delivery requests during the pandemic, will list New York City taxi cabs on its app, a partnership that until recently would have been unthinkable with both camps fighting ferociously for the same customers.

After a period in which waits for an Uber ride grew longer due to a driver shortage, the partnership will boost the number of rides available, and it gives NYC cab drivers access to a massive pool of commuters.

There had been hints tensions between Uber and taxi services had begun to thaw as Uber expanded aggressively into the lucrative food delivery business and needed a growing supply of delivery drivers.

During the pandemic, Uber's food deliveries outpaced rides given to humans as millions sheltered at home. Gross bookings for delivery services at Uber reached $13.4 billion in the final quarter of 2021. That's compared with $11.3 billion in gross bookings for Uber rides.

The agreement announced Thursday comes as more cities move to regulate the explosive growth of Uber and other app-based ride services, including New York City, which placed a temporary cap on new licenses for ride-hailing services in 2018.

The New York City Workers Alliance, a group that represents taxi drivers and has been critical of Uber and other ride-hailing apps, said it would push for negotiations.

"After its business model has shown the failures to protect drivers from ridership downturns and rising gas prices, Uber is returning to its roots: yellow cabs," Bhairavi Desai, the executive director of the NYCWA, said in a statement.

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission said Thursday that it's always interested in tools that can provide more economic opportunities for drivers.

"We are excited about any proposal to more easily connect passengers with taxis and look forward to learning more about this agreement between Uber and the taxi apps and ensuring it complies with TLC rules," said Ryan Wanttaja, acting commissioner of the agency.

Uber Technologies Inc. has been incorporating taxi drivers around the world into its system for the past several years. In Spain, for example, the company has integrated taxis Madrid, Malaga, Valencia and Barcelona.

In New York City, Uber is teaming with tech platforms Creative Mobile Technologies and Curb to eventually have all New York City taxi cabs available on its app.

Anyone with the Uber app will have access to thousands of yellow taxis that operate on the CMT/Arro platform. Taxi drivers will see Uber-originated fares on their driver monitors which they already use to service e-hails from the Arro taxi app.

Creative Mobile Technologies said Thursday that taxi drivers on its platform, which includes Arro, will gain access to Uber's customer base.

Eversource reveals '21 compensation for execs

CEOs credited for financial performance, outage response

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The former chief executive officer of Eversource Energy, who served until May 2021, received more than $10 million in compensation last year, less than in 2020, but more than what his successor was paid, the Berlin utility disclosed Friday in a regulatory filing.

In calculating compensation, Eversource gave greater weight to the company's financial performance than its operations. Storms were rarer last year than in 2020 when Tropical Storm Isaias caused widespread outages, and Eversource said the two executives share credit for fewer power outages.

James Judge, 66, stepped down as CEO May 5 and became executive chairman. His total compensation in 2021, including pension value, was $10.2 million. His comparable compensation in 2020 was $14.6 million.

Compensation included $1.1 million in salary, $2.2 million in an incentive plan and stock awards of $6.8 million.

Joseph Nolan Jr., who succeeded Judge as CEO, received compensation that included a salary of $1 million, an incentive plan of $2.3 million and stock awards valued at $1.4 million. Total compensation for Nolan, 58, including pension value, was $6.5 million.

Eversource's electric system reliability, measured by months between interruptions, was in the top decile in the industry in 2021, with power interruptions an average of 19.2 months apart, the utility said. The average system outage duration was 69.8 minutes, the top quartile in the utility industry for the fastest restoration time, it said.

Tropical Storm Henri hit southern New England in August, but shifted closer to Rhode Island, sparing Connecticut much of its punch. Eversource was credited by state regulators and lawmakers for preparing better after it faced strong criticism in the wake of Isaias in 2020.

Eversource serves electric and gas customers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in addition to Connecticut.

Eversource said profit as measured by earnings per share increased 6% last year over 2020 despite challenges such as higher than planned expenses caused primarily by storms and COVID-19. And the utility increased its dividend by 6.2%, higher than the utility industry's median dividend growth of 4.7%, it said.

Eversource also said it "reached a constructive settlement, involving many key stakeholders" following the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's investigation into its response to Tropical Storm Isaias.

PURA strongly criticized the utility for its preparation in advance of the storm and its cleanup after Isaias left the state. Eversource took an $85.8 million charge on its profit last year to pay for settlements with state regulators.

The utility also said it made "significant progress" advancing siting and permitting at the federal and state levels of its three offshore wind projects.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger @courant.com.

CNN set to dive into streaming service

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once a familiar voice on NPR, Audie Cornish says she signed on to the new CNN+ streaming service in part out of the sense she was helping to open a new frontier.

After much talk, nearly $100 million in development costs and some 500 employees assigned to the task — many, like Cornish, new hires — CNN+ is set to launch Tuesday.

This week, the company revealed what a typical day's schedule will be, with a news countdown hosted by Kate Bolduan, a deep-dive news hour hosted by Sara Sidner, a Chris Wallace interview show, and hours on politics, international news and the media topped by Wolf Blitzer's evening newscast.

"It's so rare to have a legacy news organization pour resources into something like this, at this scale," said Cornish, whose weekly interview show "20 Questions" will debut in May.

It will cost $5.99 a month, but charter subscribers can lock in a $2.99 monthly charge in perpetuity if they act within a month of the launch.

While news is the core, and CNN+ will have the ability to go live on big stories, the service is also relying on a growing library of original series and films, such as "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown."

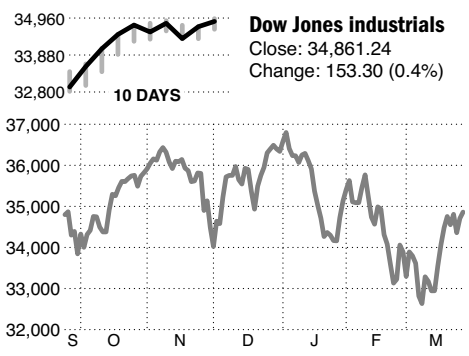
MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, March 26, 2022

DOW 34,861.24 +153.30

10-YR T-BOND 2.49% +.15

GOLD $1,953.80 -7.80



Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,861.24	+153.30	-4.06%
DOW Trans.	16,386.12	+56.72	-.56%
DOW Util.	1,016.64	+15.82	+3.66%
NYSE Comp.	16,792.80	+90.98	-2.16%
Nasdaq Comp.	14,169.30	-22.54	-9.43%
S&P 500	4,543.06	+22.90	-4.68%
S&P 400	2,712.43	+18.77	-4.56%
Wilshire 5000	45,692.83	+141.52	-5.71%
Russell 2000	2,077.98	+2.54	-7.45%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	113.90	112.34	+51.44%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	5.57	5.40	+49.36%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.47	3.39	+55.72%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,953.80	1,961.60	+6.91%
Silver (oz)	25.60	25.90	+9.72%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3184	.7585
Canada	.8017	1.2473
China	.1571	6.3663
Euro	1.0987	.9102
Japan	.008187	122.14
Mexico	.050064	19.9746

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.50
3-mo. T-Bill	0.54	0.42
6-mo. T-Bill	1.00	0.81
5-yr T-Note	2.55	2.14
10-yr T-Note	2.49	2.14
30-yr T-Bond	2.60	2.42

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,305.76	+31.97	+.22%	-9.94%
London	7,483.35	+15.97	+.21%	+1.34%
Hong Kong	21,404.88	-541.07	-2.47%	-8.52%
Nikkei	28,149.84	+39.45	+.14%	-2.23%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	20.24	+.01	-25.6
AT&T Inc (T)	23.84	+.51	-3.1
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	119.67	-.86	-16.8
AgriFORCE Gr Sys Ltd (AGRI)	4.39	-.52	+111.1
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.01	+.29	-5.3
Amphenol Corp (APH)	75.67	+.25	-13.5
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.27	+.06	-7.0
Apple Inc (AAPL)	174.72	+.65	-1.6
Aurora Cannabis Inc (ACB)	4.46	+.42	-17.6
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.75	+.84	-8.3
Bank of America (BAC)	43.73	+.66	-1.7
Barnes Group (B)	41.70	-.22	-10.5
BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE)	.83	+.09	-30.6
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2247.93	-14.06	-6.3
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	73.28	+.87	+17.5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	108.56	+.51	+5.2
Canopy Growth Corp (CGC)	8.69	+.79	-.5
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.39	-.10	-8.6
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	46.39	+.22	-14.5
Charter Communic (CHTR)	558.26	-1.06	-14.4
Cigna Corp (CI)	243.58	+1.48	+6.1
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.13	+.33	-6.4
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	3.27	-.53	-34.3
Disney (DIS)	139.14	+.18	-10.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.52	+.89	-9.3
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	10.57	+.32	+28.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.62	+.37	+1.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	86.66	+1.24	-4.7
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.41	-.05	-53.7
Ford Motor (F)	16.47	-.36	-20.7
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.22	-.40	+19.6
Gen Dynamics (GD)	244.36	+3.36	+17.2
Gen Electric (GE)	94.02	-.10	-.5
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg (DNA)	3.66	-.06	-56.0
Greenlane Holdings A (GNLN)	.70	+.10	-27.2
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	72.71	+1.07	+5.3
Hexo Corp (HEXO)	.74	+.05	+6.2
Honeywell Intl (HON)	197.79	+3.10	-5.1
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.99	-.02	-12.1
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	1.28	-.04	+108.5
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	1.72	-.07	-19.6
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.73	+.06	-2.3
Intel Corp (INTC)	51.83	+.21	+.6
Kaman (KAMN)	45.31	+.38	+5.0
Keycorp (KEY)	23.89	+.29	+3.3
Kidpik Corp (PIK)	5.22	+.96	-16.7
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.77	+1.73	-.7
MEI Pharma (MEIP)	.63	-1.18	-76.4
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.20	+.04	-6.0
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	221.82	+2.25	-34.1
MetLife Inc (MET)	71.29	+1.10	+14.1
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	2.35	-.65	-55.1
Neptune Wellness Sol (NEPT)	.23	-.05	-42.9
Novartis AG (NVS)	86.86	+.22	-.7
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	276.92	-4.58	-5.8
Occid Petl (OXY)	58.71	+.96	+102.5
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	77.24	-.18	-11.3
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.63	+.46	+21.4
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.78	+.19	-10.6
Pinduoduo Inc ADS (PDD)	44.24	-.70	-24.1
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.16	-.01	-22.2
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	120.86	+1.70	+11.7
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	68.31	+.77	+2.4
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	102.43	+.72	+19.0
Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.94	-.32	-.4
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	77.03	+.23	-6.0
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	9.01	-.46	-43.0
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	6.88	+.93	+47.6
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	138.32	-.42	-26.7
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.15	+.24	-.6
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.81	+.07	+40.5
Tellurian Inc (TELL)	5.84	+.99	+89.6
Terex Corp (TEX)	37.75	-.02	-14.1
Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	8.56	+1.59	+21.8
Transocean Ltd (RIG)	5.03	+.60	+82.2
Travelers Cos (TRV)	187.75	+3.53	+20.0
Uber Technologies (UBER)	34.06	-.64	-18.8
United Rentals (URI)	363.67	+4.69	+9.4
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	513.03	-.43	+2.2
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	244.53	+2.85	-17.7
Voya Financial (VOYA)	67.41	+.77	+1.7
Webster Financial (WBS)	59.68	+1.87	+6.9
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1081.64	+3.53	+6.7
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	61.06	-.37	+23.8
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	77.01	+.85	-.5
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.73	+.58	-8.4
Zosano Pharma Corp (ZSAN)	.23	-.02	-50.6

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OPINION

OP-ED

State's vehicle dealers are essential for EV adoption

By Hayden Reynolds, Jeff Aiosa and Paul Garavel

An electric vehicle charging station is seen on Monday in Asbury Park, N.J. Communities across the U.S. are adding such stations in an effort that began well before gasoline prices surged this year. **WAYNE PARRY/AP**

We're fortunate to live in a state that has always led on environmental laws. For instance, Connecticut was the first state in the nation to have a cabinet-level Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

State leaders have been laying the groundwork for broad electric vehicle (EV) adoption since at least 2013, when Connecticut joined what is now a nine-state agreement to deploy 3.3 million zero-emissions vehicles by 2025. Many automakers — from Ford to General Motors to Volkswagen — have plans to bring millions of EVs to market by then, which will make for a cleaner, safer and healthier environment.

But Connecticut is also a leader in protecting consumers, passing the "Lemon Law" in 1982: one of many measures that ensure car buyers cannot be taken advantage of.

These laws won't apply to certain high-end EVs that want to sell directly to Connecticut consumers, circumventing the dealer system that operates under state law. Here's the reality of direct sales: when something goes wrong with your car, it's you against the manufacturer, with no dealer required by law to help you. That's what the high-end EV manufacturers don't want you to consider.

Tesla, Lucid and Rivian can sell their cars in Connecticut — right now — under the same laws that all other auto manufacturers must follow. They can start doing that today, but they choose not to. And they are using environmental claims to deflect from their anti-consumer business model.

That's like a company that announces it will open a new factory in Connecticut but only if it doesn't have to follow state laws on minimum wage or paying time-and-a-half for overtime.

Connecticut's dealers are essential to the mass adoption of EVs. All Connecticut new auto dealers are fully committed to selling them; Volvo, Audi, Chevrolet, Ford, Mercedes, Nissan and many other manufacturers have electric vehicles on the market, and by 2023, the auto industry will have invested more than $250 billion in electrification. With more than 45 options of EVs, and projections for 80 EVs to be on the market soon, Connecticut dealerships make purchasing, servicing and charging EVs easily accessible for all consumers.

And unlike the EV manufacturers seeking the direct-sale model — led by Tesla — Connecticut new car dealers sell EVs intended for everyday consumers. The Chevrolet Bolt, for example, has one of the longest battery ranges and sells for $36,500. The Chevy Bolt, and other mainline EVs, typically serve as a driver's primary vehicle, unlike more expensive EV brands that are often a second or third car for a buyer.

Since 2015, Connecticut's Automotive Retailers Association and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection have worked together through the CHEAPR program to provide incentives to consumers purchasing EVs. The CHEAPR program now offers incentives specifically for low-to-middle income earners to provide expanded access to electric vehicles.

Connecticut's car dealers are also assisting the state in the buildout of a robust charging infrastructure and offer universal charging ports that are compatible for any electric car. Dealers across Connecticut are investing millions in more than 600 charging stations, including several super chargers, making the charging process fast and efficient. Many of the chargers at the dealerships are open to the public, whether you purchased your car at that dealership or not, often free of charge. That number will continue to grow this year and next as dealers continue to install more chargers.

The way Connecticut will reach its EV goals under the state's statutorily mandated greenhouse gas reduction target is with affordable vehicles driven daily by the average working person. Circumventing our consumer protection laws to benefit a few companies whose products are aimed at the highly affluent is not the way to reach our environmental goals.

Hayden Reynolds is general manager/owner of Reynolds Subaru; Jeff Aiosa is president/owner of Mercedes-Benz of New London; Paul Garavel is president of Garavel Auto Group.

OP-ED

What if voting became mandatory?

By E.J. Dionne Jr. and Miles Rapoport

The first step toward ending our voting wars is to recognize that every citizen should play a role in shaping our nation's destiny.

In the wake of changes that made voting more convenient, and resulted in record turnout in 2020, state after state is making it harder for citizens to cast a ballot. Congress is deadlocked on whether the federal government should protect this most basic of all democratic rights. False claims of election-rigging in 2020 led to a violent attack on the very process of transferring power. As a nation, we vacillate between inclusion and exclusion, between embracing democracy or retreating.

Breaking this cycle requires a game-changer. We propose universal voting.

Under this system, every U.S. citizen would be legally obligated to vote, just as every citizen is obligated to serve on juries. By recognizing that all of us, as a matter of civic duty, have an obligation to shape our shared project of democratic self-government, we could move from our 2020 voter turnout high — some 66.8% of eligible voters — much closer to 100% democracy.

Universal voting takes seriously the Declaration of Independence's insistence that government is legitimate only when it is based on the "consent of the governed." The Founders did not say "some of the governed" (even 66.8%). Including everyone in our system of government would live up to the promise made at the birth of our republic. Universal voting would tear down barriers and elevate our civic obligations. It could undergird other reforms and make clear that our country's commitment to democracy is unapologetic, confident and complete.

As a public responsibility, voting is no less important than jury duty. Universal civic-duty voting would put an end to legal assaults on voting rights. Those responsible for organizing elections would be required to resist all efforts at voter suppression.

By bringing all citizens into our democratic experiment, universal voting would tell those who run political campaigns to stop treating elections like invitations to exclusive parties. There would no longer be an A-list of "likely voters" and B- and C-level lists of those less likely to participate. Political candidates would have to appeal to all of us, rather than strategize on how to turn out their base while discouraging the other side's supporters from casting ballots.

More than two dozen democratic countries have versions of compulsory participation. One of the most successful models is Australia's. The United States adopted the secret ballot after Australia tried it first. We should do the same with universal voting.

Adopted in 1924, Australia's system has created a culture of participation. Election Day is always on a Saturday, and turnout hovers around 90 percent in every major election. "Voting in Australia is like a party," one voter told the New York Times in 2018. Participating in elections is not some grim exercise involving endless lines. Elections become what they should be: celebrations of freedom.

The Australian system provides for a wide range of legitimate excuses for failing to cast a ballot, including illness, and the penalty for not voting is low: 20 Australian dollars (roughly $15). Fewer than 15% of nonvoters end up having to pay the fine.

While everyone is required to register, the Australian Electoral Commission takes the lead in "enrolling" every citizen through a federal program; as of December, 96.3% of eligible Australians were registered to vote. Aussie political parties and civil society organizations join in a major public education effort as well. There are multiple avenues of early and mail voting, and easy access for people away from home on Election Day.

The gateway reforms that a fair U.S. system would require are similar to those included in the Freedom to Vote Act and other voting rights bills languishing in Congress — legislation we strongly support. Explicitly declaring voting a duty would make clear why all levels of government must allow citizens to fulfill their obligations. Voting as a civic responsibility is rooted in the proposition that rights and duties are intimately related. Declaring voting a duty is the best way to defend it as a right. To say that everyone should vote is the surest guarantee that everyone will be enabled to vote.

Those with a moral objection to voting could assert conscientious-objector status, as they can for the draft. To avoid the compounding of fines and fees of the sort disproportionately imposed on low-income people of color, we propose that any fine imposed for failure to vote — no more than $20 — not be compounded with interest and penalties, nor could it be the basis for any criminal warrant. And the penalty could be waived in exchange for an hour of community service.

The point is not to impose sanctions but to signal that voting is an expectation of citizenship. Again, this would underscore to election stewards that their task is to help citizens do their duty, not to erect obstacles.

Is this proposal constitutional? Yes. We do not refer to this proposal as "compulsory voting" because to force citizens to choose a candidate or party might legitimately be construed by the courts as compulsory speech. Voters would be free to cast a blank ballot. And to stress the freedom not to make a choice, we propose including a "None of the Above" option.

Just as it took time for our country to adopt the secret ballot, it will take effort and experimentation to make universal civic duty voting the national norm. In keeping with Justice Louis Brandeis's call for states to "try novel social and economic experiments," we hope individual states will adopt the system and demonstrate its value. About a dozen states give localities wide leeway in establishing rules for local elections, so municipal and county experiments are also possible.

Courts have long ruled that government can legitimately require certain forms of behavior. Our society accepts the universal obligation to serve on juries as the only way to guarantee fair trials that vindicate the rights of everyone. Serving on a jury for a long trial is a far more onerous task than casting a ballot, especially in a system that makes doing so easy. Charles J. Ogletree Jr., the legendary civil rights lawyer and Harvard Law professor, observed that it is "perhaps ... a measure of our progress" that "all races and all citizens groan equally loudly when the jury summons arrives." Yet the right and duty of all to serve are part of the country's "constitutional strength."

"A jury gives ordinary people extraordinary power," Ogletree wrote. The same can be said of the right — and the duty — to vote.

It is time to think anew. Our nation should make clear that it takes the rights and responsibilities of every citizen seriously. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has called forth an extraordinary global alliance on behalf of democratic self-determination. This is a moment for the United States to embrace its commitment to democracy and self-rule — not only in what we say but also in how we govern ourselves.

E.J. Dionne Jr. is a Washington Post opinions columnist. Miles Rapoport is a senior fellow at the Ash Center of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a former Connecticut secretary of state. This essay is drawn from their book "100% Democracy: The Case for Universal Voting," published this week by the New Press.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hillary Clinton did not accept defeat gracefully

Mark Slitt's letter on March 14 claims that Hillary Clinton graciously accepted her election loss and did not attempt to undermine the peaceful transfer of power. This is untrue. Hillary Clinton still claims that she lost the election due to Russian interference. We know now that this is untrue and that the only interference involving Russia came from Hillary and her campaign. She instigated false information and involved FBI and CIA resources against a legally elected president. Shamefully, Democratic Party senators and representatives joined in politically motivated impeachment attempts in support of the most corrupt politician of our times.

Accepted her loss graciously? I don't believe so.

Richard Brown, East Hampton

Find a replacement for petroleum products

The way we live and work and play are important. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the medicines we take, the cars we drive, the roads we drive on, the trucks that bring manufactured goods to everywhere, all use petroleum and its products.

Manufacturing makes thousands of products we use every day from petroleum. If it was eliminated, we would starve and freeze to death. What would you give up? Scientists have failed to produce a replacement. Not for the energy, the everyday things we eat, wear and how we play.

Before we get off oil, we need a technology assessment of how to make the products without oil. We need to find a replacement of the petroleum byproducts.

Hy Braverman, Newington

Time to get tough with Putin

How can we trade economic harm to rich people for the lives of any human being? How long will we wait for sanctions to work in a way that brings Vladimir Putin to his senses? People are dying, homes are being destroyed and lives changed forever. I don't want a war, but if we keep telling Putin we don't he will continue to do what he is doing. He has to know we want his troops out of Ukraine and his planes out of the skies over Ukraine, now. I thought we didn't negotiate with terrorists.

Vincent Curcuru, Simsbury

We must stop shaming our flesh

I write to answer the question posed by George F. Will in his March 14 op-ed piece on the fragility of eggshells and other vulnerabilities that consume us. He wrote: "One wonders: Do people viewing the original ["The Naked Maja" painting by Goya] in the Prado see ridicule?" My answer: No. I saw a work of art. I've lived in my female body all my life. I'm 83 years old, and, yes, my body has experienced some abuse from which I recovered with help. My body, now wrinkled and saggy, is still a work of art. When will we stop shaming our flesh?

The Rev. Lyn G. Brakeman, Simsbury

Cut government, trim state income tax

Many states are lowering income taxes. Some states, 13 to date, have a flat tax. Not so much in Connecticut. Flush with billions from the federal government, our state should be looking for ways to lift the burden of its progressive and heavy income tax structure. Instead, Democrats are actually looking to raise some taxes and impose new ones.

While taxpayers get no relief, state employees can look forward to a proposed increase in wages as well as cost of living bumps and, in some cases, bonuses. It seems like Democrat leadership has given up on any notion of growing the state's economy and are pressing full-steam ahead with expanding government and tax revenue. Connecticut remains in a two-decade grip of stagnant growth. People and businesses continue to flee the state taking their tax dollars with them.

It would be helpful if our elected leaders would pay more attention to growing the economy, ratcheting back the income tax burden and curtailing the relentless growth of government. Maybe then productive people and their businesses might begin to find Connecticut attractive again.

Kenneth L Boudreau, Farmington

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RADIAL ARM SAW Dewalt 10" Deluxe 120/240Vmotor $50 203-214-5232

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We are looking to buy pinball machines in any condition and will do all moving. Call today! 860 986 4055

Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #219 Shepard mix, male, black & tan. #220 American Pit Bull, male, bridle & white. Call Hartford PD 860-757-4000

Auto & SUV's

BMW 740 2001 - $2950 negotiable 740i Good Condition, Nice Driving 860-539-4439

HUMMER H3 2006 - $5900 Black Ext Tan Int New Tires, Runs Well 860-539-4439

NISSAN ALTIMA 2019
$24500 All Wheel Drive, Many Options, Like New Condition 16,000 miles 860-605-6895

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 2002 - $1350 OBO. GT. Runs, engine light on, new parts. Call: 860-623-9570

TOYOTA COROLLA 2015 - $15,600 Silver, 39K, 1 owner 860-667-1393

VOLVO S70 2000 - $5000 136,450 mi Well Maintd, Lthr Seats Bosch Sound, Exc Cond 860-978-0183

Antiques/ Classics

FORD MODEL A 1929 - $19500 4 dr, blind back, older restoration, rebuilt engine, L&B interior, runs & drives excellent! 860-828-7600

MERCEDES-BENZ 300SL 1991
$17000 Excellent condition classic convertible with hard top. Always garaged. 802-436-2962

PORSCHE 914 1974 - $2200 Solid Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-209-6629

Trucks & Vans

FORD F350 2020 - $64,500 Mint condition, loaded dually, Crew Cab, 4x4, 12k mileage, 7.3 Gas, Warranty Included 860-287-1528

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID
for any Toyota, other makes. Any condition. Running or not, crashed okay. Will take other makes and models. 203-600-4431

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
INVITATION TO BID
BID # 315

LARGE FIRE APPARATUS MAINTENANCE

The Town of Farmington is seeking bids from qualified vendors to service and maintain all large fire apparatus in the fire department. The Town of Farmington requires the vendor to conduct inspections and perform service in accordance with nationally recognized fire apparatus inspection programs. The contract period shall be from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with the option to renew for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
Sealed bids will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut 06032, until 12 noon on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at which time and place, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Dr., Farmington, CT., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.
The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid, and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.
The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law. Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
3/26/22 7176635

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
LYNDA M NORRIS
55 ASH ST
DOVER, NH 03820-3023
Have filed an application to add live entertainent
with the Department of Consumer Protection for my existing CAFE LIQUOR permit

located at:
300B W MAIN ST
AVON CT 06001-3639
The business is owned by: TRI-IT GROUP LLC

Live Entertainment Added: Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Karaoke

LYNDA M NORRIS
3/26 & 4/2/22 7177321

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Sundays in Smarter Living

Connecticut

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
INVITATION TO BID
BID # 314
MAINTENANCE OF POLICE VEHICLES

Sealed bids for the maintenance of all motor vehicles operated by the Farmington Police Department will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032 until 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid specifications may be obtained at the Finance Department between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.
The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so. Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.
Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
3/26/2022 7175373

Looking for anyone who worked at Raytheon in Farmington or Hartford 1957-1959.
Please call 314-277-6650
3/23-3/27/2022 7175168

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
BID # 313
TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE SLUDGE

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Farmington is seeking bids from qualified vendors to transport and dispose of sewage sludge from the Wastewater Pollution Control Facility, located on State Route 4 near its intersection with State Route 10, to an incineration facility for final disposal.

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut 06032, until 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 14, 2022, and at that time, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Dr., Farmington, CT., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid, and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.

The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.

Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
3/26/2022 7171523

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Hartford (HACH) is seeking sealed bids for the following Project: Roof Replacement Phase II at Stowe Village, Hartford, CT. Bid Opening date is April 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Housing Authority of the City of Hartford, 180 John D. Wardlaw Way, Hartford, CT 06106. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid walk thru for all bidders will be on April 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the project site(s), 97-99 Theodore Napper Lane, Hartford, CT 06120. Contract Documents, Plans and Specifications dated March 15, 2022, as prepared by Silver/Petrucelli + Associates, Inc. can be viewed and purchased for a non-refundable fee at Joseph Merritt & Company located at 650 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, CT. Order forms are available via Joseph Merritt & Company's website www.merrittplanroom.com. 5% Bid Security (above $25K) and 100% Performance/Payment Bonds (above $100K) are required as applicable. Bidders will note requirements of minimum wage rates, nondiscrimination/equal opportunity rules (Executive Order 11246) and related provisions in the General Conditions. No bid may be withdrawn for ninety (90) days. Complete bidding requirements are noted in the Contract Documents. This project is federally assisted. Therefore, bidders must comply with the following requirements: Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; Equal Opportunity provisions of Executive Order 11246; Non-Discrimination provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Labor Standards provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and Contract Work Hours Standards Act; prevailing wage determinations as issued by the United States Department of Labor; and all applicable provisions under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Housing Authority of the City of Hartford (HACH) is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.
3/26, 3/27/2022 7178258

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at:
https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51
Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7171086

The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified consultant to provide project coordination services in the Parkville neighborhood. Please use the following link to access the RFP:
https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-22-2022-RFP-ParkvilleDevelopmentCoordinationServices.pdf.
3/26 - 4/25/2022 7177253

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
INVITATION TO BID
BID # 316
AERATION AND DEEP TINING

The Town of Farmington is seeking a qualified vendor to aerate and deep tine the tees and greens at the Town-owned Westwoods Golf Course.

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut 06032, until 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at which time and place, said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Dr., Farmington, CT., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid, and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.

The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.

Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
3/26/2022 7171874

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
BID # 317
TREE REMOVAL AND PRUNING SERVICES

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Farmington is seeking bids from qualified vendors to provide tree removal and pruning services on town-owned properties.

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut 06032, until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at which time and place, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Dr., Farmington, CT., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid, and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.

The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 2402, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.

Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
3/26/2022 7176728

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Dogs

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CHIHUAHUA Long hair mix. Sweet companion, 4 yr, 14 lbs, male. Shots, neut, microchipped. Owner developed asthma, $475 to defray expenses. Call 860-643-0204.

FOX TERRIER PUPPIES $1400, M/F, vet checked, shots, 860-942-2651

LABRADOR RETRIEVER . Akc yellow Labrador retriever,males and females,10 weeks, up to date on shots. Call 860-634-3263

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Ellington
Joseph E. Wehr, Jr.
Enfield
Carol Ann Dumesnil
Hartford
Jane D. Horrox
Newington
Todd T Wheeler
Other Towns in CT
Delanne M. Carey
Paul B. Thomson
Out of State
Harry P. Ano
Rocky Hill
Todd T Wheeler
South Windsor
Joseph E. Wehr, Jr.

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Ano, Harry P.

In memory of Harry Ano: March 12, 2022
Harold P. Ano grew up in Scotia, NY within a family of four. As a boy, his father introduced him to the beauty of the great outdoors and fishing. Thus, began a lifetime of sportsmanship. He fished for salmon in Alaska & New Zealand, bonefish in the Bahamas, sailed in regattas in Boston, hiked in Montana, shot a moose in Maine, and loved every moment in the wilderness.
Harry enjoyed the respect, challenge, and fellowship that came with fly fishing, golfing, hiking, hunting and in his younger days, sailing, skiing and playing football. Harry played football in high school and for Dartmouth College. He graduated in 1971 earning a bachelors degree and a collection of great friends. He did a stint in army reserves. Then, IBM is where he began his career when technology was beginning to make its mark. He moved into a variety of roles working for Wang Labs & EMC, later achieving a senior position as Vice President of worldwide marketing. Along the way up the corporate ladder, he met his wife Pat on the ski slopes. The two created many memories together in their 40 years. A perfect day for Harry may have included golfing with friends, cooking a wonderful meal to share with his wife and friends, while sitting around the firepit sipping a scotch with the beautiful backdrop of his home & the Callawassie Marsh.
There will be private family services. The family requested that Remembrances be made as contributions to Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation for their Cardiac Services, P.O. Box 2233, Beaufort, SC 29901.
Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Carey, DelAnne M.

DelAnne M. Carey, 78, of South Windham, CT passed away unexpectedly at home on March 21, 2022. She was born in Willimantic, CT and moved to Plymouth, NH at the age of 6. There she had the unique opportunity of being a student in her mother's first grade class. When DelAnne was 9, she spent a year in London with her parents where she witnessed the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. DelAnne moved to South Windham when she was 12, and graduated from Windham High School and Eastern Connecticut State College. She then received a Ph.D. from Sarasota University. On August 12, 1969, DelAnne married Andrew Carey, III, also a resident of South Windham. She was employed for many years as a reading consultant for the Lebanon Public School System. DelAnne was the Director of "Early Prevention of School Failure" teams that trained many school systems in CT. In addition, she was an Eastern Connecticut faculty instructor. DelAnne enjoyed traveling, visiting many countries with her husband or her group of devoted friends. She was fond of her neighborhood and especially enjoyed spending time with her neighbors. She eagerly offered to host parties for the many organizations that she and Andy supported, where every guest was treated to her boundless humor. DelAnne loved her pets and the birds and animals that visited the backyard to be fed. This resulted in South Windham having the fattest crows in CT. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Andrew Carey, III; cousin, Linda Klecak and her husband David. In addition she is survived by her husband's siblings, Kathleen Perlitz and her husband Frank, Ann DeMarchi and her husband Robert, Tim Carey and his wife Kim, Jim Carey and his wife Gail, Colleen Carey, and Maureen Etchells. She was predeceased by her parents Levi H. and Thelma (Weick) Dolloff. Her family will receive relatives and friends on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. Willimantic, CT. She will be buried at the convenience of her family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the South Windham Fire Department, P.O. Box 4, 41 Machine Shop Hill Rd. South Windham, CT 06266. For an online guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wheeler, Todd T

Todd Wheeler was born on January 30, 1964, in Hartford, CT. He passed away in his sleep after a long struggle with kidney disease on Sunday morning, March 20th. He was predeceased by his parents W. Donald Wheeler and Barbara (Babs) Wheeler of Rocky Hill. He is survived by his two brothers, Tony Wheeler of Massachusetts and Tim Wheeler of Washington State, two nieces Amanda and Alison, and a band of life-long friends.
Todd graduated from Rocky Hill High School in 1982 and Southern CT State University in 1986 earning a bachelor's degree in accounting. He was a hard worker and spent 30 years at Kircaldie Randall & McNab LLC where he would disappear each tax season from New Year's Day to April 16th. He had a very long client list who will surely miss their favorite tax preparer.
His sense of humor defined him. Of course, we weren't always in on the joke. His deeds and friendships earned him a path into heaven where he is likely trying to convince them they don't exist. He was a great story-teller, remembering details of people and events long forgotten with a comedic twist. He wasn't on a debate team. He was the debate team. He will be missed by everyone who was able to unmask him and see the genuine person he was. He was honest with himself, and everyone he met. It was a true gift.
Todd worked hard and enjoyed the fun times as well. He was a movie buff, a member of a large UConn Football Tailg8ers crew, and enjoyed all UConn sports through the years. He loved his Dolphins, imagining it was still 1972 and liked to hang out with Yankees fans so he could explain to them why the Sox were better.
His family and friends would like thank Lynn Thibodeau and the CNAs who loved and cared for him over the last 3 years. Melina, Linda, Erin, Omayra and Carin. His nurses Trisha, Mirja, Derlyne, Michelle, Christina, Francis and Chris Olson and to ALL the staff at Bel Air Manor in Newington, CT.
Todd we will all miss you. Services will be private. If you wish, donations may be made to his favorite charity, the Jimmy Fund, in his honor.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES

Horrox, Jane Devanney

Jane Devanney Horrox, 88, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 17,2022. She was a resident of Ayers Health & Rehab nursing Home in Trenton, FL. Born on Dec.2,1933 in Hartford, CT Jane leaves behind her sister Olive Bonneau of Manchester, CT and her brother James Devanney of North Carolina. She was predeceased by her daughter Deborah Kelly of Daytona, FL. She also leaves two daughters, Linda and husband Paul Parciak of Enfield, CT and Sandra and husband Michael Moore of Bell, FL. Also among those going to miss her dearly are her five grandchildren, six great grandchildren, one great great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. Jane enjoyed many hobbies with her friends at Ayers; some of which included bingo and various card games. Burial will be at Bell Cemetery with a Celebration of Life ceremony sometime in the near future. In lieu of flowers donations will be accepted by the American Breast Cancer Foundation or Ayers Health & Rehab Nursing Home, 606 NE 7th St., Trenton, FL, 32693; who did such a wonderful job taking care of her and meeting all her needs in her later years.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Thomson, Paul B.

1943-2022

Putnam – Paul B. Thomson, 78, of Sabin St., died Sunday afternoon, March 20, 2022, at Day Kimball Hospital. He was the loving husband of Ines F. Granville and the late Annie Robertson. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Jeanne (Battey) Thomson.

Mr. Thomson worked for many years at AT&T as supervisor of quality control and had his own consulting firm.

He enjoyed golfing, sailing, and was an avid reader. Later in life he discovered the game of pickle ball and enjoyed playing it along with the love of his life Ines.

Paul is survived by his wife, Ines F. Granville; his siblings, Stephen L. Thomson of Hilo, HI and Jeanne T. Hislop of Hubert, NC: his nieces and nephews, John S. Hislop, Colby B. Hislop, and Kylie H. Butler his stepdaughter, Maria Gold and her husband, Ian of Boston, MA; and his step grandchildren, Gabriela, Ruby, Nora, and Henry Gold.

A celebration of Paul's life is being planned in the near future. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to The Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260.

Memorial donations in Paul's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or Hospice of N.E.CT, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wehr, Jr., Joseph E.

Joseph E. Wehr Jr., 74, of Ellington and formerly of South Windsor, beloved husband of over 52 years to Patricia (Rook) Wehr, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Born in White Plains, New York, the son of the late Joseph and Margaret (Linehan) Wehr, he grew up and lived in East Hartford and South Windsor before moving to Ellington twenty years ago. Joseph was in the first graduating class from East Catholic High School, Class of 1965 (where he played on the state championship basketball team!) and he earned his undergraduate degree from Boston College, Class of 1969. Prior to his retirement, Joseph was the co-founder and president of Data Base Management Inc. for many years and was most recently a senior advisor at SIAS Global LLC. He was very active with East Catholic High School alumni and was the chairman of the school's first capital campaign. Joseph was a civic leader and was on the Town of Ellington Board of Finance, as well as a past president of Ellington Ridge Country Club. He enjoyed traveling, golfing, playing cards and going to breakfast with his friends at Rein's Deli. Joe was so proud of his three daughters and the families they built and cherished the time he spent enjoying his six wonderful grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Allison Wehr and her husband Evan Murray of Andover, Massachusetts, Megan Therriault and her husband Michael of Topsham, Maine, and Melissa Klopfer and her husband Michael of Coventry; six grandchildren, Aidan and Ryan Murray, Benjamin and Katherine Therriault, and Ellie and Declan Klopfer; his sister, Laurie Osborne and her husband Richard of Manchester; his brother, James Wehr and his wife Tammy of South Windsor and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. His family will receive friends for calling hours on Monday, March 28, 2022 from 4 – 7 PM at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 29th at 11 AM at St. Bernard Church, 25 St. Bernard Terrace, Rockville. Burial will be private. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the East Catholic High School scholarship fund at www.echs.com/Support-ECHS or by mail to East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester, CT 06042. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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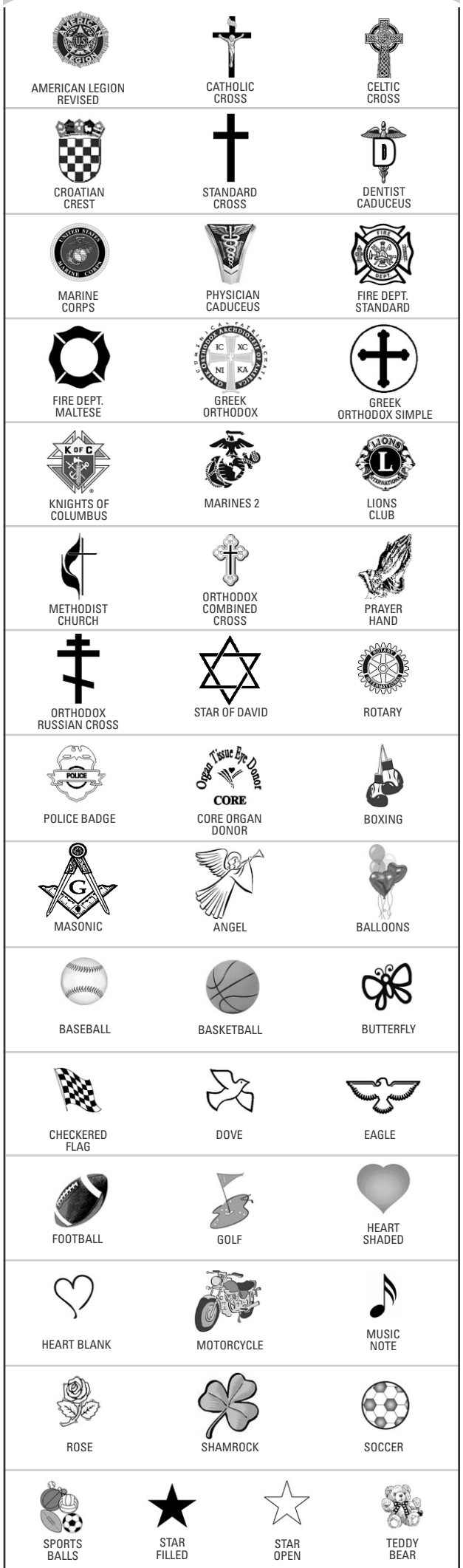

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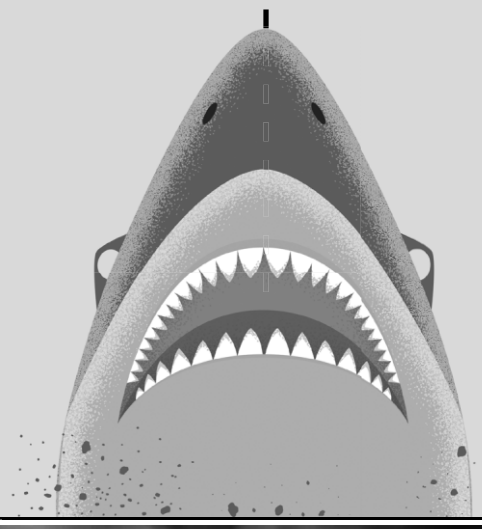

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Residents urged to 'be bear aware'

With over 1,000 black bears waking up statewide, what to know about trash, pets and those ear tags

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Emerging from a long winter slumber, Connecticut's black bear population is on the move and hungry.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection advises people to "be bear aware" to reduce potential conflicts with the large and powerful omnivores, which are rapidly expanding their numbers and range in the state.

How many bears are in the state now? The estimate is 1,200, DEEP wildlife division Director Jenny Dickson said Friday. Many bears are reported in Litchfield and Hartford counties and fewer in eastern Connecticut, but bears have spread across the state, Dickson said.

Connecticut is good bear country. Natural foods such as acorns, skunk cabbage and grubs are abundant and bears' reproductive success and the survivorship of cubs are both high.

"Our bears are very healthy, they're very fit," Dickson said.

Bear sightings reported to DEEP last year totaled 8,600 in 156 of the state's 169 municipalities. There were 634 sightings in Avon, the most in the state; followed by Simsbury, 622; Farmington, 403; Granby, 372; and Bloomfield, 315. Hartford tallied 20 sightings, New Haven had 1 and Bridgeport had none, according to DEEP. Most communities with no reported sightings were in Eastern Connecticut, including Bozrah, Franklin, Chaplin and Sprague, but Dickson said that doesn't mean bears are not in those towns.

When will we have too many bears in Connecticut? There are two ways to consider the question, Dickson said. Plenty of bear habitat remains, and the animals have been steadily spreading into eastern Connecticut.

But people will have to decide how many bears they can tolerate, Dickson said. A bear hunt has been debated, but so far, there is no season for black bears in the state.

Meanwhile, Dickson said, people must learn to live with bears and make necessary changes to dissuade the animals from getting too accustomed to people.

Why are bears in my neighborhood? Bears that regularly eat food associated with humans, including birdseed, trash and pet food, get comfortable near people and associate neighborhoods and houses with tasty meals.

As the bear population

Turn to Bears, Page 2

Police: Driver to blame in crash

18-year-old allegedly was impaired in I-91 wrong-way collision

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Two people were injured Thursday in a wrong-way crash on an I-91 ramp in East Windsor that state police said was caused by an impaired driver.

An 18-year-old male was charged with illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, failure to drive in the proper lane, driving the wrong way on a divided highway and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said. The Courant is withholding his name under new guidelines that seek to generally publish only the names of people accused of the most serious crimes.

A passenger in the car the 18-year-old was driving and the other driver were taken to Hartford Hospital to be treated for what troopers said appeared to be minor injuries.

According to a police report, the crash happened about 3:50 p.m. on the off-ramp from I-91 North at Exit 45.

The car the 18-year-old was driving, a 2021 Honda Passport Touring, was headed west on Route 140 but then turned left and went up the off-ramp, traveling in the wrong direction, the report said.

The Honda struck the front of 2011 GMC Sierra that was stopped at a light, according to the police report.

Troopers determined that the 18-year-old was operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, state police said. The report didn't say whether the 18-year-old was believed to have consumed alcohol, drugs or both.

There has been a rash of wrong-way crashes in Connecticut this year. Two separate head-on

Turn to Crash, Page 2

Daymon Patterson, shown in 2021 at Mofongo restaurant in New Britain, visits his favorite restaurant again in "Off the Script." **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Creativity on the menu

Daym Drops challenges Connecticut chefs to go 'Off the Script' in new series

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Daym Drops, Connecticut's favorite food influencer, is following up his Netflix show "Fresh, Fried and Crispy" with a YouTube-only show focusing on the restaurants of the Nutmeg State.

"Off the Script" will take the food-reviewing star to a different Connecticut town or city every week, where he will visit three restaurants per town. The show will make its debut in August, Daym Drops (real name Daymon Patterson) said in an interview Friday.

"The show challenges the owner or chef to not only create something everybody loves, but also to create an item not on their menu yet," Patterson said. "I want the show to showcase the chefs."

The new YouTube show is an extension of Patterson's series on YouTube in which he visits the best and worst reviewed restaurants in the state. That series is now in its third season.

"Two seasons ago, I watched this one kid showcasing the best in his area, which was L.A. I decided to showcase the best and worst here. Some restaurants do it right. Some need some tweaking," Patterson said. "Sometimes people get on Yelp to bash a restaurant. Maybe they haven't even been there. Some ones that were worst reviewed I give four to five stars to, it's that good. It helps the establishments."

The first episode takes place in the city he lives in, New Britain. Patterson visited Mofongo, Staropolska and Town and Country Pizza. "New Britain has a lot of Puerto Ricans, which is why I went to Mofongo, and a lot of Polish people, which is why I went to Staropolska," Patterson said. "Town and Country I went to because it's a hangout that everyone goes to."

Mofongo is a restaurant dear to Patterson's heart. His best friend,

Turn to Series, Page 3

"The show challenges the owner or chef to not only create something everybody loves, but also to create an item not on their menu yet. I want the show to showcase the chefs."

— Daymon "Daym Drops" Patterson, New Britain food influencer

A goal of 'more Brother Carls'

Hardrick Institute gets $50K to help reduce gun, street violence

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A new $5 million fund established at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving by Simsbury philanthropists Robert and Margaret Patricelli is dedicated to granting projects that lift up communities in the Hartford area. The fund's first grant recognizes someone who has dedicated his life to the city's communities: Brother Carl Hardrick.

The foundation announced that the Patricelli Family Fund has granted $50,000 over the next two years to The Brother Carl Hardrick Institute for Violence Prevention. The institute, based at Wilson-Gray YMCA on Albany Avenue, trains young community members on how to engage the people of their neighborhoods with the goal of stopping gun and street violence before it starts.

"The institute goes back to work I've been doing for years. The question is, who's going to replace me? What happens if something happens to me?" Hardrick said in an interview. "Like the UConn basketball team, we have to have great people coming in. The older ones are not going to be there forever."

Turn to Hardrick, Page 2

Hartford street-violence prevention worker Carl Hardrick, known as Brother Carl, speaks at a vigil for Hardrick's grandson Makhi Buckly after Buckly was fatally shot. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Hartford man gets 30 years for sex assaults

Years of attacks began when victim was 6 years old

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A Hartford man was sentenced to 30 years in prison Friday for years of brutal, sexual attacks on a child who viewed him as a parental figure, according to federal officials.

Robert Acosta Torres, 61, pleaded guilty previously to raping a Hartford boy three to four times a week over a six-year period and filming the attacks. The assaults began when the child was 6 years old.

After Acosta Torres was arrested and charged with producing child pornography, the parents of two additional Hartford-area children approached federal authorities and reported that he had allegedly assaulted their children as well.

Authorities have limited the release of information about the attacks and the relationships between Acosta Torres and the victims to protect the identities of the children. The child who was assaulted for six years is identified in court as minor victim 1, or MV1, to protect their identity.

Federal prosecutors said Acosta Torres committed the attacks in Hartford, New York and in Puerto Rico. After his arrest, authorities found that he had 31 video recordings of his abuse of MV-1 and hundreds of other images of child abuse.

The years of assaults of MV1 stopped only after the child and his mother moved away from Hartford. After they moved, the child's mother said he was deeply depressed and it took a year before he confided in her:

"…. I noticed many changes in [MV1], his grades dropped, he

Turn to Assaults, Page 2

HARTFORD

Driver killed in crash that splits car in half

A 28-year-old died in a violent, two-car crash in Hartford on Thursday night, police said.

Larry Lugo, 28, of Cabot Street in Hartford was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision on Sigourney Street and Farmington Avenue, police said.

Officers who were in the area came upon the scene of the crash shortly before 10:30 p.m. They found a white Acura TL that had crashed into a utility pole and a gray BMW X5 in the intersection, police said. Video of the scene shows that the Acura was cut in half.

The male driver and male passenger of the BMW survived and were taken to the hospital to be treated for injuries that were not life-threatening, Lt. Aaron Boisvert said.

Police continue to investigate the crash. Anyone with information about it is asked to call the police department's tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

— Christine Dempsey

Report: Pit bull injured by machete-wielding woman

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A woman faces felony assault and cruelty to animals charges after she used a machete to break up a Hartford dogfight, according to a police report.

The wounded dog, a pit bull, suffered deep cuts on several parts of its body and had to have its tail amputated after the attack, the report said. A man who was trying to separate the dogs reportedly had a broken nose and needed stitches.

Quadasia McNeil, 33, of Bellevue Street, was charged with second-degree assault, cruelty to animals, carrying a dangerous weapon and breach of peace. She is due in Superior Court in Hartford May 4, court records show.

According to the report, the attack happened about 1:10 p.m. March 17. A man told police he was riding his bike north on Bellevue Street, trying to get away from a small white dog that was following him. The man's girlfriend, who lives on Bellevue, was outside with her gray pit bull. The white dog "suddenly began fighting with his girlfriend's dog," he told police.

As the man was trying to separate the dogs, a woman later identified as McNeil arrived "and began striking his girlfriend's dog with the machete," the report said. The white dog belonged to her wife.

The pit bull's injuries were so severe, the veterinarian bill cost $4,000, police said in the report.

Both the man and a witness said McNeil hit the man in the face with the machete, but police later determined his injuries were more consistent with him having been struck with the body of the machete, as opposed to the blade, or hit with McNeil's fist while she was holding the machete, the report said.

McNeil admitted she struck the pit bull with the machete and that she punched the man, according to the report. But she also told police the man was swinging a small knife toward her.

Police didn't find any knives at the scene or on the man, police said in the report.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Assaults

from Page 1

was withdrawn, he seemed sad," the child's mother told federal authorities. "It was as if something tormented him, I remember bringing him in the car talking, demanding an answer to something that I had on my chest. Because deep down I knew something had happened with that man. I told him, '[MV1], I know that man did something to you.' I just looked at his teary eyes and he told me, 'sometimes I hate myself.' I tried not to cry, not to break down, I felt like my world was falling apart when I saw my son's eyes full of tears, with a lot of pain. Every word stabbed my heart. The worst pain I've ever felt in my life, I don't wish it on anyone. I just thought why my son?"

Acosta Torres faced a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years on the child pornography production charge and a maximum of 30 years. Federal prosecutors asked for the maximum.

Acosta Torres has been detained since his arrest on Dec. 18, 2019.

Man shot by cop during welfare check allegedly had knife

Staff report

A man who was shot by a Torrington police officer during a welfare check Wednesday was identified Friday as a 53-year-old Tioga Street resident, according to state officials.

The man, of the 100 block of Tioga Street, Torrington, was listed in stable condition at Hartford Hospital Friday, according to the Office of Inspector General and the Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad, which are investigating the officer-involved shooting.

Authorities said officers went to the Tioga Street home about 4:35 p.m. Wednesday after Litchfield County Dispatch received a call that a man was allegedly threatening to harm himself, state authorities said in a statement. LCD dispatched Torrington police officers David Kisiel and Jeffrey Buzzi to the Tioga Street home for a welfare check, state authorities said in the statement. The Courant is not naming the man because of his alleged threat of self harm.

The officers found the man in the basement of the home, state authorities said.

The man allegedly "immediately advanced on the officers with a knife in his hand," the statement said. "The officers repeatedly directed (him) to drop the knife to no effect. Officer Kisiel discharged a Taser that also was ineffective. As (the man) continued to quickly advance with a knife, Officer Buzzi discharged his weapon three times striking (the man)."

The officers radioed, "shots fired" at 4:42 p.m. and requested an ambulance, the statement said.

The man "sustained gunshot wounds and was taken to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Subsequently, he was flown by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital for treatment," state authorities said in the statement.

Authorities said Kisiel and Buzzi were wearing body worn cameras during the incident. The videos, released Friday, depict the officers repeatedly directing the man to drop the knife.

Bears

from Page 1

continues to grow, the animals become increasingly food conditioned, and conflicts with humans will continue to increase. Food-conditioned bears pose a greater risk to public safety and often damage houses and cars and maim and kill pets and livestock. The danger that conditioned bears may be hit and killed by vehicles also increases.

"Black bears should never be fed — either intentionally or unintentionally. ... It is up to all of us to help prevent bears from learning bad behavior," Dickson said.

How do I keep bears away from my home? Take down, clean, and put away birdfeeders by late March, or even earlier during mild weather. Store the feeders until late fall and clean up seed spilled on the ground. Store unused bird seed and suet in places not accessible to bears, such as a closed garage. Do not store bird seed in screened porches or sheds where bears can rip screens or break through windows.

Store garbage in secure, airtight containers inside a garage or other enclosed storage area. Adding ammonia to trash cans and bags reduces odors that attract bears. Periodically clean garbage cans with ammonia to reduce residual odor. Garbage for pickup should be put outside the morning of collection, not the night before.

A state wildlife biologist uses a syringe at the end of a pole to inject Telazol into a young black bear that had climbed up a tree on Newport Avenue in West Hartford. The bear was relocated. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Don't store recyclables in a porch or screened sunroom as bears can smell these items and will rip screens to get at them. Also, keep barbecue grills clean and store grills inside a garage or shed.

What about pets and livestock? A bear might perceive a roaming dog as a threat to itself or cubs. Supervise dogs when outside and keep your dog on a short leash when walking and hiking.

Use electric fencing to protect chickens, other livestock, beehives, agricultural crops, and berry bushes. Also, avoid placing meat scraps or sweet foods, such as fruit and fruit peels, in compost piles.

What if I encounter a bear? In case of a close encounter with a bear, make your presence known by yelling or making other loud noises.

Never attempt to get closer to a bear. If the animal does not retreat, slowly leave the area.

If you're in your yard, go into your house, garage, or other structure.

If the bear persistently approaches, go on the offensive — shout, wave your arms, and throw sticks or rocks.

When should I report a bear sighting? Bear sightings reported by the public provide valuable information to help DEEP monitor changes in the population. Anyone who observes a black bear in Connecticut is encouraged to report the sighting at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Report-a-Wildlife-Sighting, or send an email to deep.wildlife@ct.gov.

Information on the presence or absence of ear tags, including tag color and numbers, is particularly valuable.

A common misconception is that a tagged bear is a problem bear, and a bear with two ear tags was caught on two different occasions because it was causing problems.

Every bear receives two ear tags (one in each ear) the first time it is handled by DEEP biologists. Most tagged bears have not been caught as problem bears, but rather as part of a project researching the state's bear population.

In the rare instance when a bear appears to be aggressive toward people, or other immediate public safety concerns involving a bear, contact DEEP's Environmental Conservation Police at 860-424-3333.

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Crash

from Page 1

collisions happened within 20 minutes of each other on Feb. 26, killing six people, including a student at Southern Connecticut State University.

On Monday, a man died when he drove in the wrong direction on I-84 in Plainville and slammed into an oncoming car, state police said. The other driver survived.

Wrong-way crashes often result in death and serious injuries due to the force of impact. A study by AAA released in March 2021 found that between 2010 and 2018 there were 2,921 fatal wrong-way crashes resulting in 3,885 deaths — an average of 430 deaths per year and an increase from the 360 yearly deaths from 2004-09. About 60% of wrong-way drivers had blood-alcohol levels of 0.08 or higher, according to the study. Age also was a factor.

Highway drivers may take steps to avoid being struck by a wrong-way driver by staying in the center or right lane, Sgt. Dawn Pagan said earlier this month. Wrong-way drivers often travel in the left lane, thinking it's the right one.

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Hardrick

from Page 1

Hardrick is a legend in the Hartford community. He became famous in the city and the region while he was working at South Arsenal Neighborhood Development Corp. in the '80s, when he got out into the community and became known by everyone. He was a respected and trusted figure when he heard about plans for a gang war.

"I found who was in charge. I said, 'What are you doing? ... I understand you have a group of young men in a gang. How strong is it?' " Hardrick said. "He said 900. They came from Bellevue Square, from the Avenue, from Dutch Point.

"The kids' average age was 17. The youngest was 12. They got in a beef with the other gang in Stowe Village and they said they were going to war."

To avert the violence, Hardrick got the leaders of the two gangs to meet.

"There was 25 of the one and 25 of the other and we sat at a table. They agreed to mend their difficulties with one another," he said. "That was the beginning of my work with gangs."

His success made him well-known outside the city, too. He traveled nationwide to work with civic leaders on how to prevent violence.

Hardrick said the mission of violence prevention doesn't start with showy successes like his war intervention. It starts with years of day-to-day community interaction.

"First you have to earn respect by engaging people, having conversations with them, or else they'll say, 'I don't know who you are, I don't want to talk to you,' " he said. "People don't care about how much you know, they care about how much you care. Sometimes that means taking them to school, spending time with them, taking them to court, mediating a fight, doing the things most people won't do."

The institute

Joanne Price, co-managing partner and founder of Fairview Capital, founded the Brother Carl Hardrick Institute in 2021 with Hardrick and Stephen Bayer, senior vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

"When you meet Brother Carl, you are meeting a person who is absolutely committed to a cause and a community. He does not need a pat on the back or awards or any of that. He does all his work form the heart and from care," Price said. "It doesn't get any better than that."

Tragically, Hardrick's own family became the victim of gun violence last year, when his 19-year-old grandson, Makhi Buckly, died from a shooting on Memorial Day. A Hartford teen has been charged with his murder.

The institute's purposes and goals, as stated on its website, are "mobilizing the community to change social norms through a community-wide, public health and social development approach; identifying and supporting the highest risk groups of youth; detecting and interrupting potentially violent conflicts of known perpetrators; and establishing positive youth development programs to empower and support young men and women."

It works with a variety of local institutions such as Trinity Health of New England, Connecticut Health Foundation, Hartford HealthCare, Blue Hills Civic Association, Mothers United Against Violence, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, the city and state government and corporate and religious leaders.

The $50,000 grant from the Patricelli Fund will "create more Brother Carls," said institute spokeswoman Francine Austin.

The fund

The Patricellis are not newcomers to Hartford Foundation. They founded Robert & Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation in 1997. Among that foundation's grantees are Dance CT ballet company, the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship and the Patricelli '92 Theater restoration project at Wesleyan University, the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Hartford Gospel Fest, CT Public, CT Rising, EngageCT, the Hartford Courant's Meeting Ground project, CT Mirror Hartford Promise and Hartford Public Library.

The Patricelli Foundation's latest funding project is $600,000 to restore three greenhouses in Elizabeth Park that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

That grant was offered in honor of the couple's mothers — Lydia Patricelli and Carolyn Sweetland — who both were nature lovers.

The Patricelli Family Fund will be administered alongside the Patricelli Foundation to fund projects that are exclusively based in the city and region.

Robert Patricelli met Hardrick back when Hardrick worked with SAND.

"Carl thankfully is still with us. I am delighted to be able to support him," Patricelli said. "I have cherished those relationships that go back to the '70s."

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CONNECTICUT

Court puts end to federal oversight of DCF

After 3 decades, ruling 'a huge generational milestone' for agency

By Mark Pazniokas and Ginny Monk
CT Mirror

A federal judge formally released the Department of Children and Families from three decades of court oversight Thursday, concluding that Connecticut once again can be entrusted with the care of its most vulnerable children.

Dorantes

"We are very excited to be able to say that today, in 2022, we are a very different agency than we were in the late '80s and early '90s," said Vannessa Dorantes, the eighth and final DCF commissioner to answer to federal overseers.

In the view of plaintiff's counsel, DCF has been transformed from a model of dysfunction to an exemplar of a child-protection agency focused on keeping children with relatives and out of institutions to the greatest degree possible.

"The kind of big structural policy things that the department has achieved, I think it really put it at the leading edge nationally," said Ira Lustbader of Children's Rights, a national advocacy group that led the litigation.

Lustbader's group filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in 1989 on behalf of "Juan F.," an anonymous 10-year-old boy representative of a class of children whose needs were unmet by an agency run with poor resources, guided by outdated policies.

The litigation reflected a desire to remake child protection in Connecticut to address an evolution towards working to support troubled families instead of stripping them of their children.

"We believe here in Connecticut that children belong safely at home. And when safety cannot happen at home, they are with relatives or someone that they know," Dorantes said.

The concept is simple, one built on research indicating that children are better off with family. But the reality of providing necessary supports and having options when a child's safety cannot be assured at home is complex.

Dorantes began her career as a consequence of Juan F.

She was hired in December 1992, when the plaintiffs and state agreed to a consent decree that, among other things, required the agency to hire scores of social workers. Dorantes was 22.

"I think about my entire career, spanning from one end of it to the other," Dorantes said. "It's humbling."

When she began, a social worker carried 56 cases. Today, she said, the number is a more manageable 17. There were 300 children being cared for in out-of-state placements. Today, the number is five.

Forty-two percent of the children under DCF supervision are being cared for by a relative, a rarity 30 years ago. And, Dorantes said, the agency is more sensitive to its relationship with minority communities.

"We recognize that children of color represent a disproportionate number of kids in care, and so we have to look at how we serve those families and engage with those communities very differently than just the general blanket approach," said Dorantes, the agency's first Black commissioner.

The end of the Juan F. consent decree, as ordered by U.S. District Judge Stefan R. Underhill, comes soon after acceptances of a settlement in the Sheff v. O'Neill school desegregation case — also filed more than 30 years ago.

Gov. Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong said both cases appropriately returned policy making from the courts to the executive agencies.

"Litigation is no way to set policy," Tong said.

The Sheff settlement requires certain spending on education and will be enforced by an injunction, while there will be no further court supervision in Juan F. with the acceptance of the final exit plan Thursday.

Martha Stone, a lawyer who is lead plaintiff's counsel in Sheff and was part of the original legal team in Juan F., expressed discomfort at the difference.

"The way they structured this, it's just this abrupt termination with no accountability to the plaintiffs to make sure that there's no retrenchment," said Stone, executive director of the Center for Children's Advocacy.

While there have been "tremendous improvements" over the past few years at DCF, the department still needs to work on mental health services for children and address the high rate of employee turnover with its contracted service providers, Stone said.

"Maybe you don't need a full-time monitoring office, maybe you don't need a monitoring structure, the way they had it up to this point, but you do need some kind of public accountability," Stone said.

Steve Fredericks, the lead co-counsel in Juan F., said the exit from the court decree came after a series of deliberate steps.

"It seems to me hard to characterize the end of a 32-year case as abrupt," Fredericks said. "A lot of the structural change today started a decade ago, and there have been dramatic improvements each year since."

Sarah Eagan, who has closely watched and sometimes criticized child protection as the state's child advocate since 2013, said the end of the consent decree was a moment for those in the "life-and-death critical incident business" to take measure of DCF's progress.

"A lot of things are different and better," she said. "There's no question about it — it's a huge generational milestone."

Eagan said no one is suggesting that the end of the consent decree is the end of the need to make improvements.

"We're not done," Eagan said. "It's now, what's next?"

Did people in prehistoric Conn. hunt mastodons?

Avon, Farmington discoveries hint at Ice Age scene

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Scientists investigating a prehistoric site in Avon have found evidence that people who lived in the boreal forests of what is now Connecticut either scavenged or hunted mastodons.

The revelation that humans and Ice Age animals likely overlapped in the region is part of the continuing study of a 12,500-year-old camp by the Farmington River. Discovered early in 2019 during reconstruction of the Old Farms Road Bridge near Route 10, the site is the focus of a five-part series of free presentations by the Avon Historical Society, Avon Free Public Library and Avon Senior Center.

The second session, Ice Age Animals of New England, is set for April 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Sign up at avonctlibrary.info.

The presenters are state Archaeologist Sarah P. Sportman and Nathaniel Kitchel, an archaeologist in Dartmouth College's anthropology department. Sportman will focus on the discovery in 1913 of mastodon remains at the Hill-Stead estate of A.A. Pope in Farmington, and Kitchel will talk about remains of a wooly mammoth discovered in 1848 in Mount Holly, Vermont.

The Farmington mastodon was the most complete example ever found in Connecticut. The remains recently were radiocarbon-dated to 14,200-14,900 years ago. A less complete mastodon from New Britain was dated to about 13,000 years ago.

"This talk focuses on what these old and new discoveries tell us about Connecticut's history and environment at the end of the last Ice Age and examines the question of whether people and mastodons might have once shared the Connecticut landscape," organizers of the upcoming presentation said in a news release.

Archaeologist David Leslie, who has been studying stone tools found at the Avon site, said in an interview Wednesday that blood proteins found on a scraper are consistent with an animal in the elephant family. Unlike mammoths, who ranged in open grasslands, mastodons preferred forests, so the animal likely was a mastodon, Leslie said.

"I think we have great evidence for people processing a mastodon hide in the past at this site," he said.

People and mega-fauna such as mastodons, mammoths and giant beavers were known to co-exist in other parts of North America, but the recent discoveries indicate the giant animals and humans briefly overlapped in the Northeast.

Archaeologists uncovered more than 15,000 artifacts at the Avon camp, named for former state Archaeologist Brian D. Jones, who led the effort to dig deeper at the site, exposing the treasure trove of stone tools and projectile points.

Remains of a mastodon discovered in 1913 in Farmington, the most complete example found in Connecticut. A new webinar will cover the likelihood that humans and mega-animals coexisted in Southern New England. **COURTESY**

The camp is considered the earliest site of human habitation in Southern New England.

Paleo-Indians began to arrive in the Northeast about 13,000 years ago. Tests on other stone tools found at the Avon site show evidence they also hunted animals in the cervid family such as deer and caribou, said Leslie, who works for the Storrs-based firm Archaeological & Historical Services Inc. The state Department of Transportation is funding the continuing research, he said.

To watch the webinars from the 2021 series visit youtube.com/user/afplct.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Artifacts from a Paleo-Indian site rest on a table at Archaeological and Historical Services Inc. on Jan. 15, 2020, in Storrs. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Michelle Nicholson owns and operates Flour Girl Bakery in Hebron, right next door to her restaurant, Flour Girl Cafe. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

Flour Girl Bakery opening next door to sister cafe

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

In the center of Hebron is Gale House, which was built in 1824 and has been used over the decades as a home and a parsonage. It sat empty for many years.

Michelle Nicholson owns a wooden hutch that's older than Gale House. Generations ago, in South Carolina, her ancestors used its flat marble surface to make butter mints, a traditional candy.

As a symbolic nod to her foremothers' baking skills, Nicholson has put that buffet inside Gale House, which has been restored and is the location of her new business, Flour Girl Bakery, which opens today next door to the Flour Girl Café, which Nicholson opened last August.

"Now we serve everything in the café on my bread, made right here," Nicholson said. "People can go to the café for breakfast or lunch, then after work they can drop by here and grab a loaf for dinner."

Nicholson, a former marketing professional, became fascinated with bread baking 2 ½ years ago.

"I wanted to learn how to make sourdough," she said. "I wound up with way too much stuff."

Nicholson gave loaves away to her friends and neighbors, who picked them up from a breadbox on her front porch. She decided to sell her loaves and got a cottage license. Her popularity boomed.

She moved to a kitchen in nearby St. Peter's Church. Flour Girl is the latest phase in her evolution into a professional baker. Nicholson has left the marketing business.

At Flour Girl, she specializes in sourdough.

"I focus on things that the average baker can't make at home," Nicholson said. "Most of my breads take three or four days to make."

She makes sourdough loaves, brioches, baguettes, crackers, cookies, muffins, coffee cakes and granola. In a salute to her ancestors, Nicholson also makes butter mints.

"I want these to become my signature item," she said.

The shop also sells artisan items such as soy candles, bread-warming trays, tea towels and coffee grown on female-owned farms. Old-fashioned candy is sold by the pound, including classics such as Atomic Fireballs, root beer barrels, Boston Baked Beans, wax bottles and Smarties necklaces.

Nicholson, who also is a member of the Hebron town economic development commission, also sets aside a spot on the counter to sell crafts made by local kids. The crafts are in a three-week rotation. Each young crafter must name a charity to receive 50% of their proceeds.

Flour Girl Café, 12 Main St., is open Tuesday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Flour Girl Bakery, 14 Main St., will be open Thursday to Sunday, with hours to be determined.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Series

from Page 1

Vincent Placeres, owns the restaurant, and when Placeres opened a location in Windsor, Patterson bought a share of the business.

The second episode was filmed in Middletown, at Eli Cannon's, Harrie's Jailhouse and Celtic Cavern. The third episode takes place in Bristol, at San Gennaro Brick Oven Pizza, Parkside Café and Bell City Diner.

The fourth episode, which starts filming next week, takes place in Hartford. Patterson said he will film at Soul Bowls, at 489 Wethersfield Ave., first. The show's producer has not yet decided on the two other restaurants.

Then Patterson will go to Glastonbury, Norwich and other as-yet-determined towns, he said.

Patterson, who still drops YouTube videos three days a week, has other projects going on. He is a guest judge on the first episode of a new Netflix cooking competition show, "Is it Cake?" On the show, bakers who specialize in creating cakes that look like common objects — a burger, a breakfast sandwich, a pile of tacos — are challenged to create a cake so realistic that none of the judges can tell it is cake.

On that episode, Patterson is joined by comedian Fortune Feimster and chef Ronnie Woo as judges. Michael Day is the host. Other celebrities act as judges in the other episodes.

Patterson, who launched his fame on YouTube with a review of a cheeseburger at Five Guys in Farmington, had the easiest time with the burger-shaped cake. "I know my burgers. As soon as it turned around, I knew it wasn't real," he said.

Patterson is returning this season to Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford, which inaugurated the Daym Drops Diner last year as a concession stand.

This summer's new foods at Daym Drops Diner will be revealed on April 4.

Also, at the Hartford Yard Goats game at Dunkin' Donuts Park on May 31, Daym Drops bobblehead dolls will be distributed to the first 1,000 guests. Patterson will be at the game that day to sign the dolls.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

LIVING

CELEBRITIES

Haddish to release essay collection

From news services

Tiffany Haddish's next book will be in part a story of laughing through the tears. Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Friday that Haddish's essay collection "I Curse You With Joy" is scheduled for Nov. 29.

"'I Curse You With Joy' includes stories of how Haddish uses comedy to metabolize pain and turn it into art, auditioning for 'Saturday Night Live' before being the first Black female comic to host it, how the trauma in her own life has made her more compassionate, and her complicated relationship with her father," Amistad's announcement reads in part.

Haddish's first book of essays, "The Last Black Unicorn," was a bestseller published in 2017. She has a picture book, "Layla, the Last Black Unicorn," scheduled for May.

"After my first book, I knew I wanted to share more of myself in 'I Curse You With Joy,'" Haddish said in a statement. "I want to bring readers on a journey with me that is hahahas and highs and lows, so people know even through the hurt you can spread joy."

Tiffany Haddish, seen Sept. 25, is set to release a new book, "I Curse You With Joy," Nov. 29. RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION

Grammys to feature Sondheim tribute: "West Side Story" star Rachel Zegler and Tony winners Leslie Odom Jr., Ben Platt and Cynthia Erivo will perform songs by composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim during the "In Memoriam" segment of the Grammy Awards show on April 3, organizers announced Thursday.

Sondheim — an eight-time Tony winner whose stage productions included "West Side Story," "Into the Woods," "Company" and "Sweeney Todd" — died in November at age 91.

Grammy producers also announced Thursday that Foo Fighters, Jon Batiste, Nas, H.E.R. and Chris Stapleton will perform at the ceremony, which will air live on CBS.

Trevor Noah, star of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," is set to host the awards show.

Oscars to celebrate 'Godfather,' 'Bond': James Bond didn't get an Oscar nomination this year, but that doesn't mean that he won't be part of the ceremony. It's the 60th anniversary of the first 007 movie, after all, and the 50th anniversary of "The Godfather" and those landmarks will not go uncelebrated Sunday at the 94th Academy Awards.

It's all part of the overriding theme of the year: "Movie lovers unite."

"Movies are the one thing that actually do unite so many of us as a global community," Will Packer, who is producing the show, said Thursday. "Movies make you feel something, they inspire you, they make you aspire."

The show will also include a performance of the hit "Encanto" song "We Don't Talk About Bruno," even though it will not vie for an Oscar. Latin music powerhouses Luis Fonsi and Becky G will join members of the film's cast during a performance of the Lin-Manuel Miranda hit, the academy said.

The Oscars air Sunday on ABC.

March 26 birthdays: Actor Alan Arkin is 88. Actor James Caan is 82. Singer Diana Ross is 78. Singer Steven Tyler is 74. Actor Vicki Lawrence is 73. Actor Ernest Thomas is 73. Actor Martin Short is 72. TV host Leeza Gibbons is 65. Actor Jennifer Grey is 62. Singer Kenny Chesney is 54. Journalist Margaret Brennan is 42. Actor Keira Knightley is 37.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Kids shouldn't be playing 'mature' games

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column briefly to work on other creative projects. Today's "Best of" topic from 10 years ago concerns video gaming.

Dear Amy: My husband and my father are both video gamers.

A new version of their favorite game just came out, and I became aware that it is rated M-Mature by the Entertainment Software Rating Board.

The two men believe it is perfectly acceptable for our 6- and 4-year-old boys to watch and play this game. I equate an M rating as equivalent to watching an R-rated movie and am insistent that the boys cannot watch or play this game.

They are arguing that the kids have played previous versions, also rated M (unbeknownst to me), therefore no harm is being done. I am being accused of overreacting and being controlling.

The kids are also now angry at me for pulling the plug. Am I overreacting?

— *Unplugged Mom*

Dear Unplugged: Did your husband and your father start their recreational lives as very young children playing violent video games intended for adults?

I'm going to guess not. I presume that when they were children these older men exercised their imaginations and bodies the old-fashioned way — out in the backyard, on the ball field, or down the block in the neighborhood.

Don't they want the same for these kids?

I completely agree with you. Your children are way too young to play (or watch others play) these games.

It would be great if your kids had a dad and granddad who cared enough about them to take them outside to engage in play that is truly interactive. The number of letters I receive from parents of teens and young adults (mostly male, frankly), anguished over the hours, money and effort spent on video gaming would persuade any parent to delay this activity — or at least offer younger children something in the realm of age-appropriate.

These adults, who are basically co-opting the kiddies in order to do battle with you, are also providing an example of adolescent gamesmanship.

For more information on the Entertainment Software Rating Board's rating system (including very helpful tips on how families can discuss this important issue), check ESRB.org. The site includes information on how to install parental controls on various branded gaming systems.

Dear Amy: My husband and I are both gamers.

We have always had a rule that the kids may not watch or play M-rated games. We felt that if we let them break this rule, it sets a precedent to break others, such as going to R-rated movies and drinking before age 21.

We limit our time playing these games, and wait until after they are asleep.

The children's computer is in another part of the house in a high-traffic zone to help keep them away from sites they should avoid. Since breaking the rules means loss of computer privileges, they are motivated to behave.

Our kids are now teenagers and have been using the computer since they were 3 years old.

The children have complained that we are keeping them out of the social loop, but we have stuck to our guns, and they have always found alternate games to play.

— *Gamer Mom*

Dear Gamer: You have the fortitude to say "no" to something and to stick with it. Good for you!

Dear Amy: Responding to the letter from "Unplugged Mom," who was worried about her young children playing M-rated video games: In my household, we say those games are rated "I," not "M." I think you can guess why!

— *Also a Gamer*

Dear Gamer: Actually, I can't figure out your home rating system. But the most important thing is that the adults in your household make appropriate choices, and that you are consistent in your enforcement.

Dear Amy: Regarding "gaming addiction," my mom seems addicted to playing games on her phone. I don't know how to get her attention!

— *Upset Kid*

Dear Upset: Ask her to agree to limits, post them on the fridge and remind her when she strays.

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MUSIC REVIEW

Rosalia scrambles cultural codes, remakes pop in her own image

By Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

You get a good sense of what Rosalia is up to across her dazzling new album from "Hentai," a hushed and aching ballad — at least that's what it starts out as — that comes about a third of the way through the 16-track "Motomami."

Singing in a high, trilling voice, the Spanish pop phenom, 29, traces a shapely ascending vocal melody over gently ringing piano chords; eventually, a swooning string arrangement flickers to life behind her, lending the song a sort of wistful classic-Hollywood flavor.

Yet the title of "Hentai" refers to a different type of filmmaking — specifically, porn in Japan's brightly colored anime tradition — while the song's lyrics describe physical pleasure more vividly than these delicate sounds have trained us to expect: "I wanna ride you like I ride my bike," she sings in Spanish. Then a juddering drum-machine beat drills into the production, blasting away "Hentai's" sense of sophisticated calm though not, crucially, its air of emotional longing. It's not a bait-and-switch, this song; instead, Rosalia's idea seems to be that sex is worthy of the high-flown treatment that pop music typically reserves for romance.

Recorded around the world (including in Los Angeles, Barcelona and the Dominican Republic) and featuring collaborations with The Weeknd, Pharrell Williams, Q-Tip, James Blake, her longtime studio partner El Guincho and the trailblazing Puerto Rican producer Tainy, "Motomami" is all about rethinking established cultural boundaries; the LP, Rosalia's third,

'Motomami'
Rosalia (Columbia Records)

brandishes moments of rupture, discord and collision to evoke a modern world that questions — yet still seeks comfort in — old folkways.

Again and again in these gleaming, ice-pick-sharp songs, which blend reggaeton, hip-hop, bachata, R&B and jazz (to name just a few of the styles), she makes improbable connections with little worry over whether the seams are showing; indeed, the seams may be the point of her work in an era when assimilation has lost its luster as a social ideal.

"I contradict myself/ I transform," she sings in Spanish over a buzzing bass line in the album's punky opener, "Saoko." "I'm everything."

Rosalia broke out in 2018 with the Grammy-winning "El Mal Querer," which remade flamenco music using electronic textures alongside the form's tools of acoustic guitar and hand percussion. "Motomami" charts that speedy ascent to pop stardom. In the dramatic "La Fama," she characterizes fame as "a lousy lover" and a "backstabber who comes as easy as she goes"; "Bulerias," the only track here rooted explicitly in flamenco, recounts the hard work behind the glamour of celebrity: "To keep standing on my feet," she sings, "I killed myself 24/7."

But if fame has taken a toll on Rosalia's personal life, success has clearly been an artistic boon. "Motomami" practically throbs with the freedom of someone flush with creative capital; its stylistic sprawl shares something with Beyonce's "Lemonade," while the album's mix of harsh noise and sculpted pop melody can recall the music M.I.A. made after "Paper Planes" became a left-field hit in the late 2000s.

In the hypnotic "Candy," about a breakup with a guy who "broke me but just a little bit," she threads a sample from a Burial song (which itself samples a track by Ray J) through a clattering reggaeton beat. The title cut, with a springy beat, is 61 seconds of pure cool-kid swagger; "Cuuuuuuuuute" reaches toward hyperpop with a wild spray of machine-gun percussion.

"Hentai" isn't the album's only vocal showcase. Rosalia also sings the stuffing out of "Delirio de Grandeza," a cover of a vintage Cuban bolero that she tricks out with a scratchy Soulja Boy sample. And then there's the stripped-down closer, "Sakura," in which she imagines herself at 80, looking back with a laugh at her days as a pop idol.

Rosalia is also an exceptionally shrewd record-maker: To do her version of bachata, the beloved Dominican style, in "La Fama," she didn't recruit a proven bachata singer but rather the Weeknd, whose light, imploring voice turns out to be perfect for the song — and whose mega-stardom helped guarantee a massive audience for her latest cultural mash-up.

Some will view her strategy as pretty rich in a song about fame's soul-depleting properties. Rosalia is OK with the paradox.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your imagination could be more useful today. Even if you aren't plowing away at professional goals, you could still uncover an idea that can propel you toward your ideal life. Let your mind wander — the more unusual your thoughts are, the more likely they are to be beneficial.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A friend could make all the difference when it comes to broadening your horizons, making it even more likely that you'll get in touch with someone from a different background than your own. This could lead to new opportunities abroad, so get ready to plan an enlightening trip.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): There's the potential to win big today as long as you use your trademark brilliance, which could leave you feeling like you're settling down to a game of high-stakes poker. Be careful — as long as you aren't sloppy, you could come out of this with a major jackpot.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): A specific person could have the power to change your life today, provided you make an effort to reach out. Don't be scared to ask for help, because someone who offers a helping hand may also be the one who can lead you even beyond the finish line.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There are undercurrents of information whipping through your environment at the moment — ones that you might be able to use to your advantage. You're more prone to reading between the lines than usual. As long as you keep your eyes peeled, you might be able to spot a major opportunity that others may overlook.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A peer could bring a lovely opportunity right to your front door, helping you pair up with the most suitable people. Those people will do something to bring joy into your world. Of course, this could work the other way around. Do your best to remember two is a lucky number right now.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An aura of efficiency pushes you forward today, making it much easier for you to snap to attention and get all your ducks in a row. Today, it will also orient your focus toward what's going on within your own four walls. Use this time to tend to any matters around the house.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Wearing your heart on your sleeves could be easier than usual for you, Scorpio. Try to do something that puts your inspired ideas front and center — you could uncover new motivation that pushes you along for years to come.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Checking in with a female relative could be particularly helpful today, placing a special focus on the women in our lives. A conversation taking place under your roof or with an influential woman could have quite a positive impact on your earnings, whether you're pitching an idea or just asking for advice.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've likely got quite a bit to say today, but your words could be sharper than you realize. Your thoughts may take on an extra edge. You can be real with people, but make sure you don't get too real and potentially hurt anyone's feelings in the process. Words can be dangerous!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The road less traveled could turn out to be the more profitable one, giving you fresh ways to innovate your earnings. Let yourself follow these ideas wherever they might lead, because the end result could contain quite a few gems just waiting for you to discover them.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): People may have something important to tell you today! Tune in to the universe and get your finger on the pulse of current events. Friends could provide you with an opportunity. Whatever they have for you could be something major.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 26, 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1973, the soap opera "The Young and the Restless" premiered.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter.

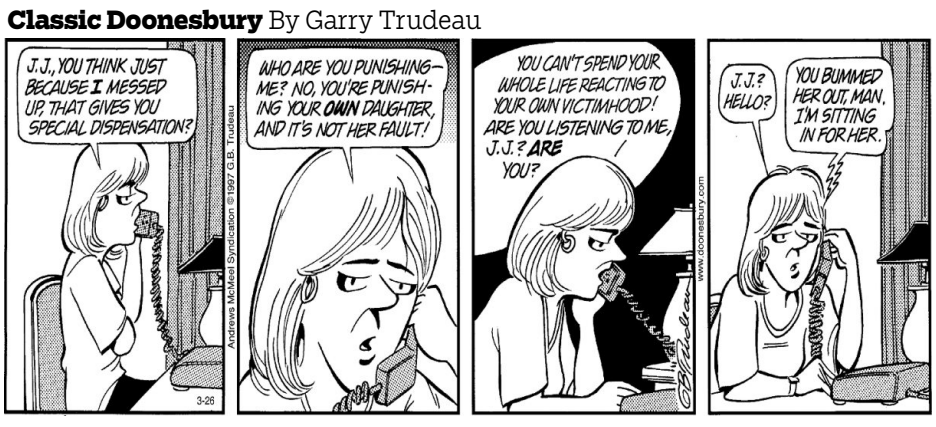
In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in California.

In 2010, the U.S. and Russia sealed the first major nuclear weapons treaty in nearly two decades.

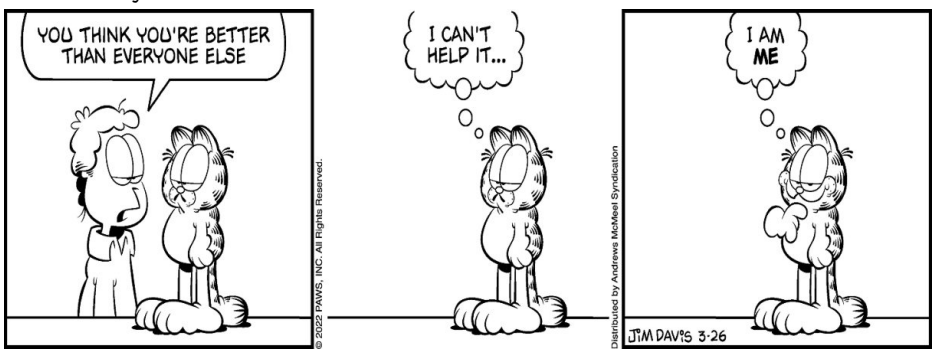
In 2020, the U.S. surpassed official Chinese government numbers to become the country with the most reported coronavirus infections.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

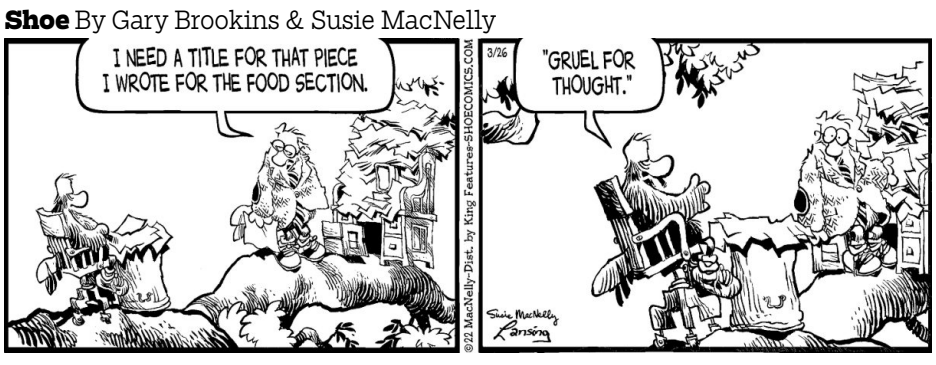
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis

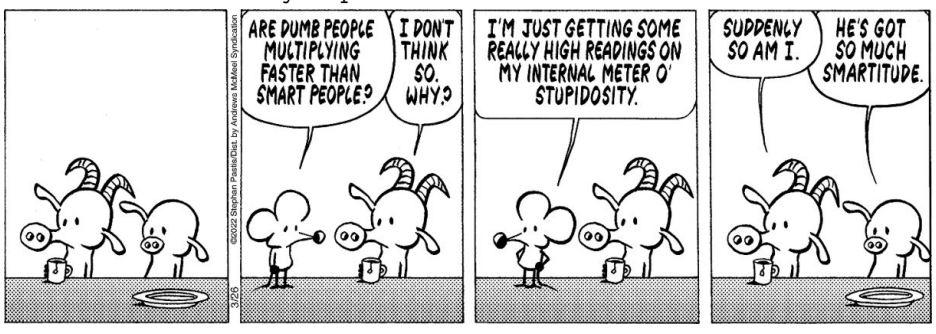


Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly

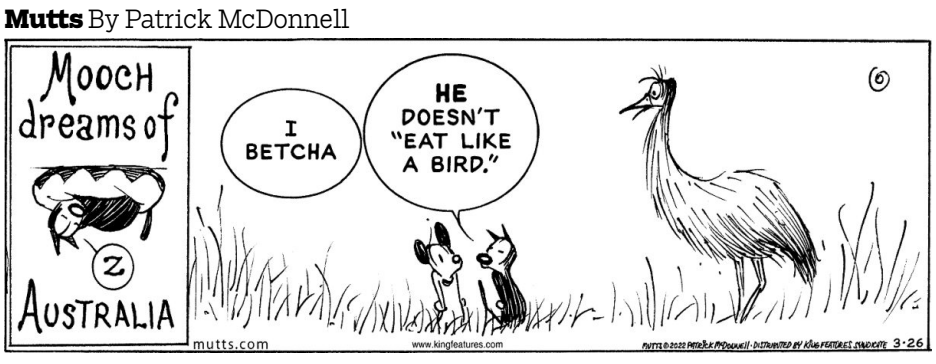


Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

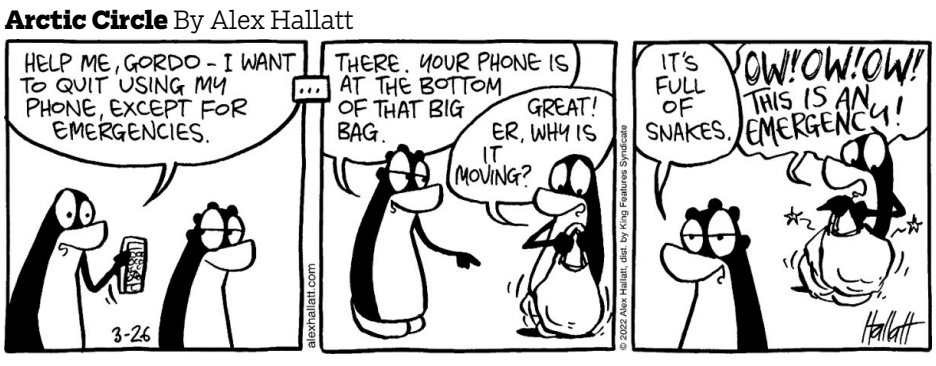
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell

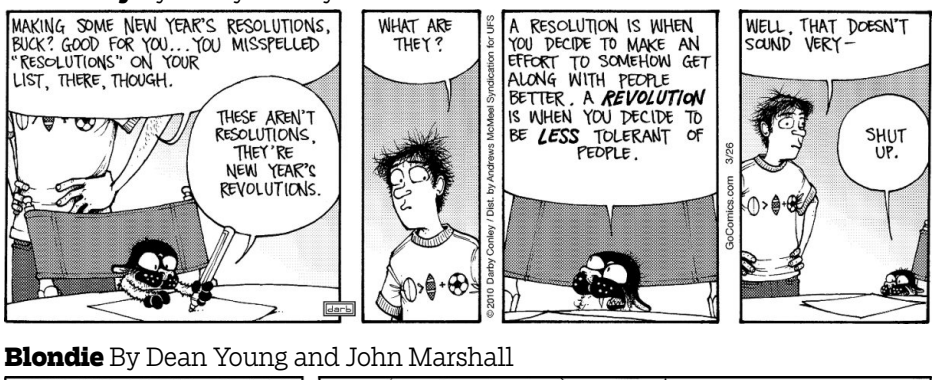


Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt

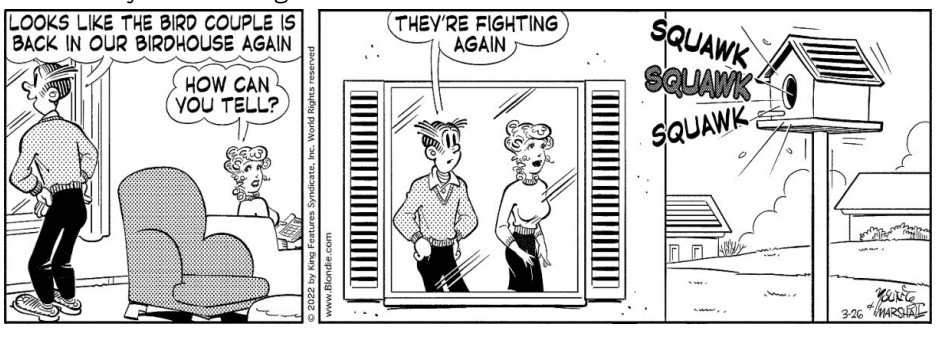


Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



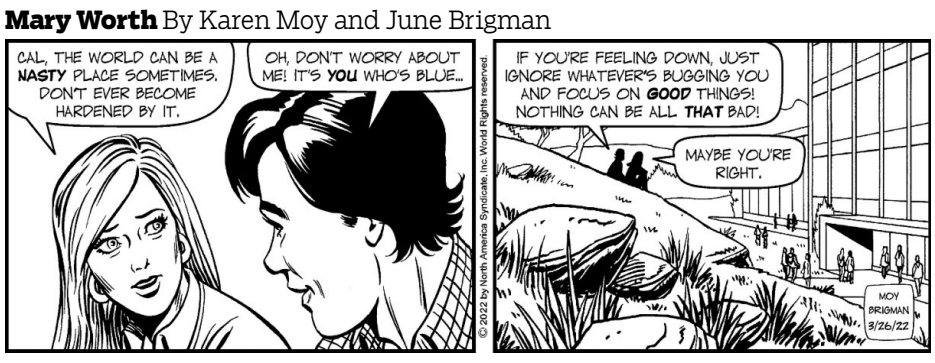
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



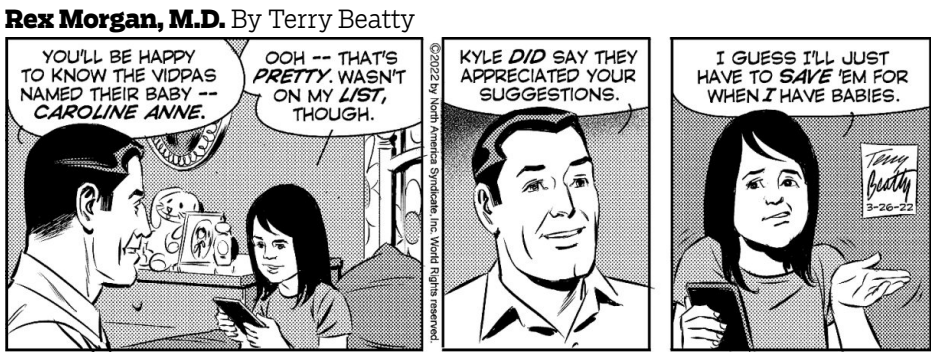
Dilbert By Scott Adams

Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin

Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman

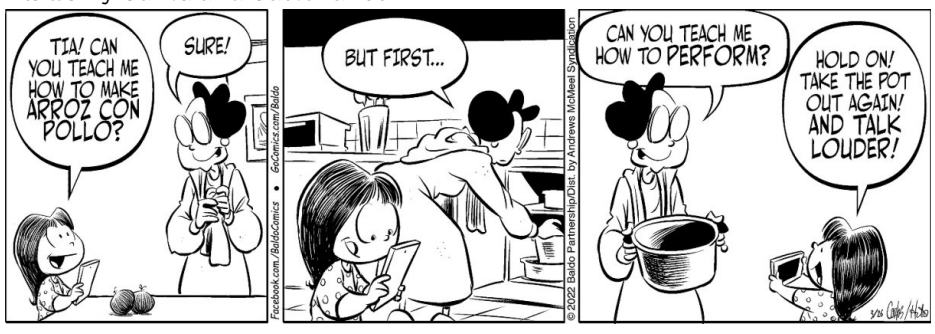


Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty

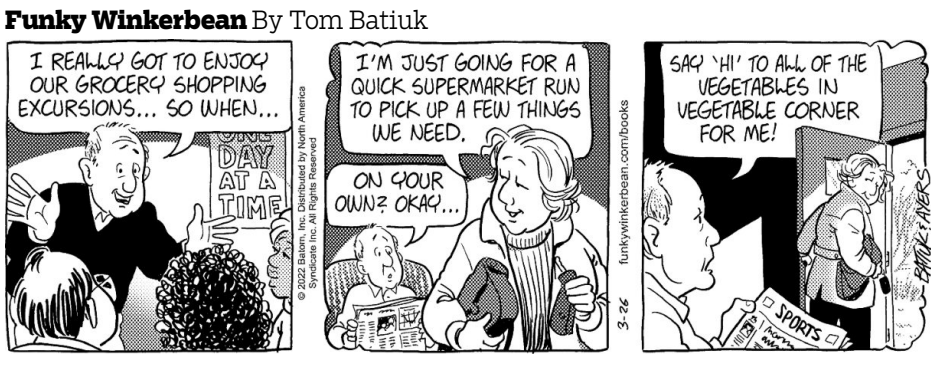


Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley

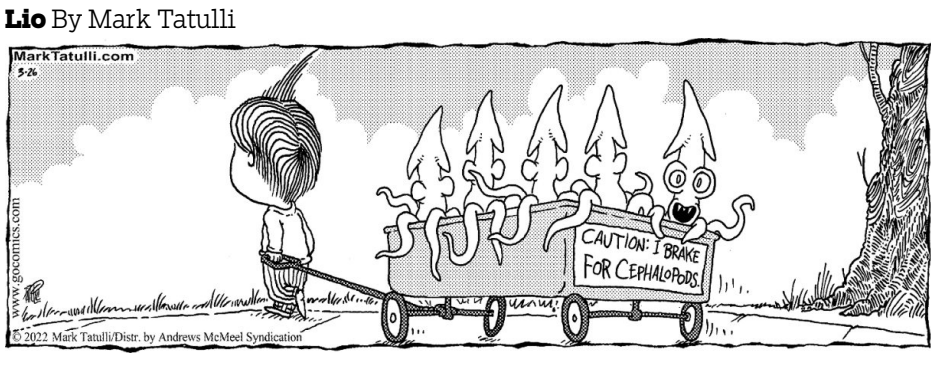
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



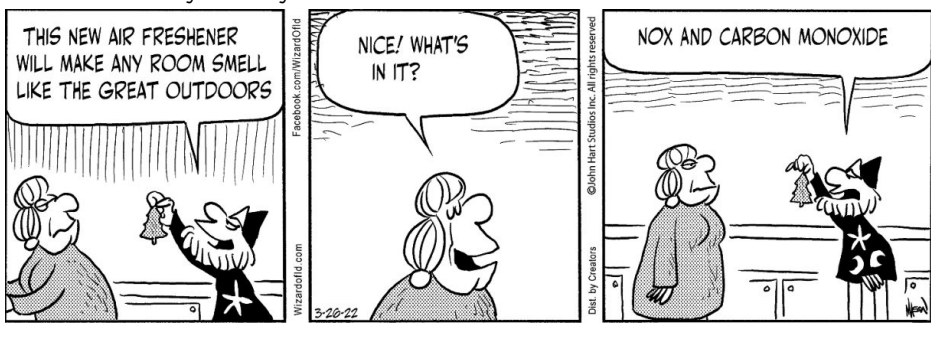
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



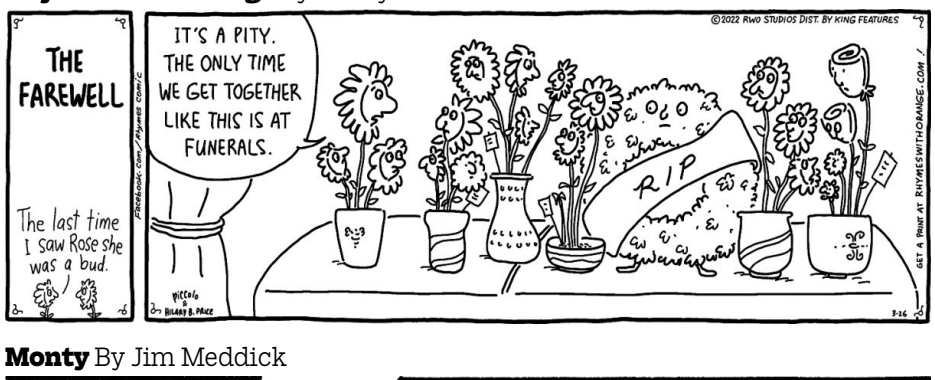
Lio By Mark Tatulli



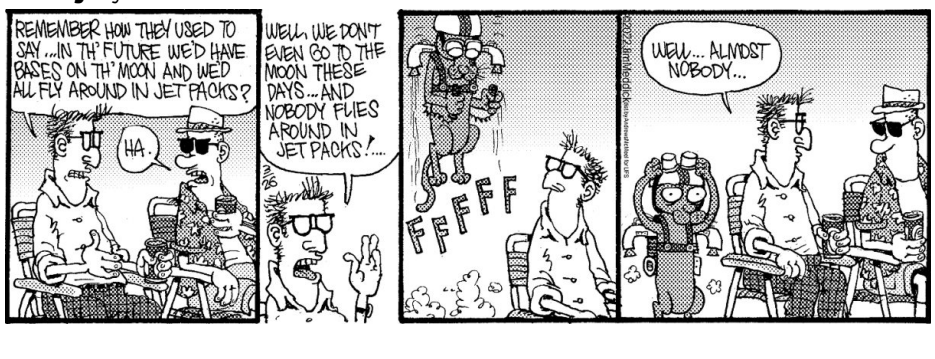
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price

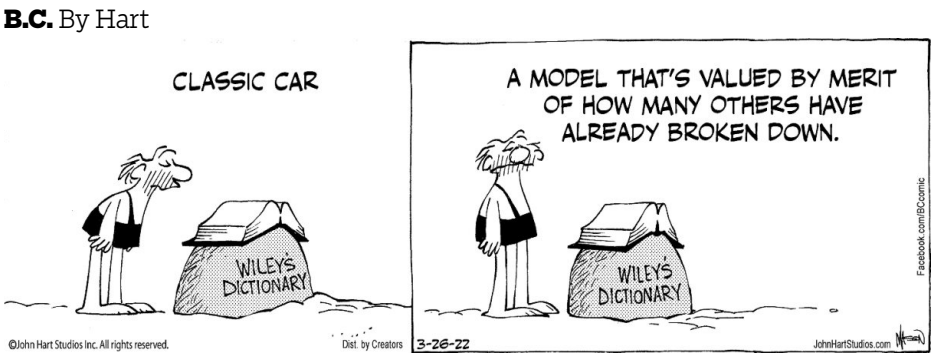


Monty By Jim Meddick

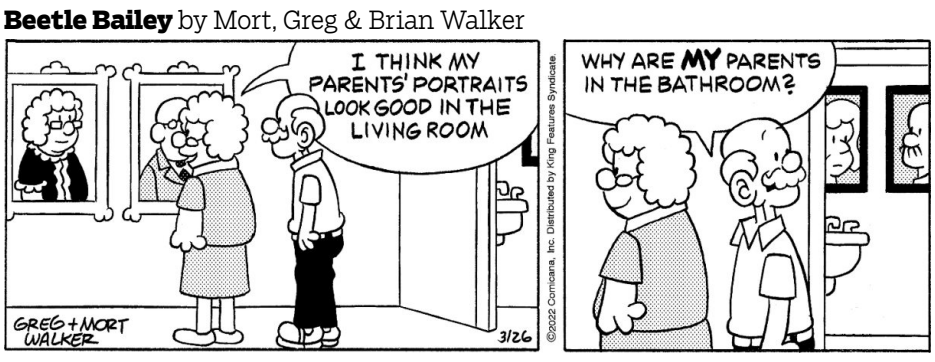


For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

B.C. By Hart



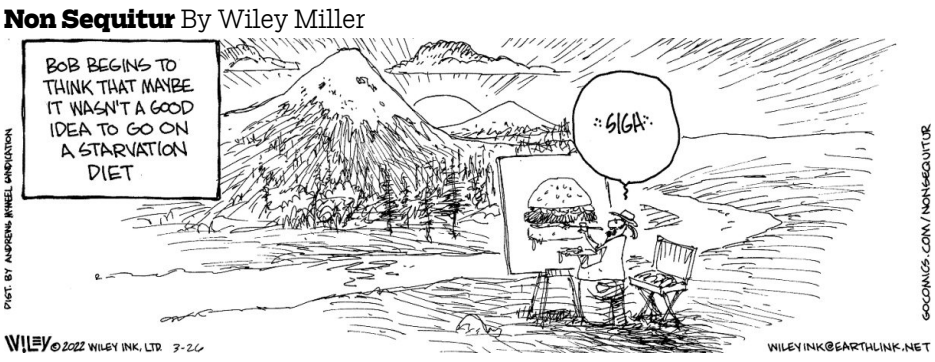
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



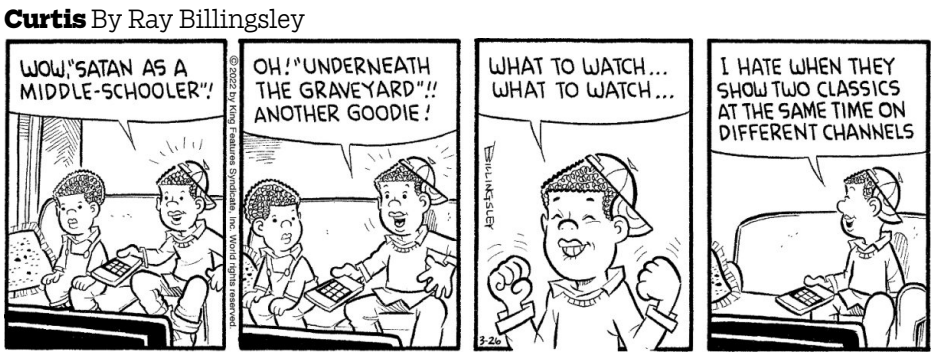
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

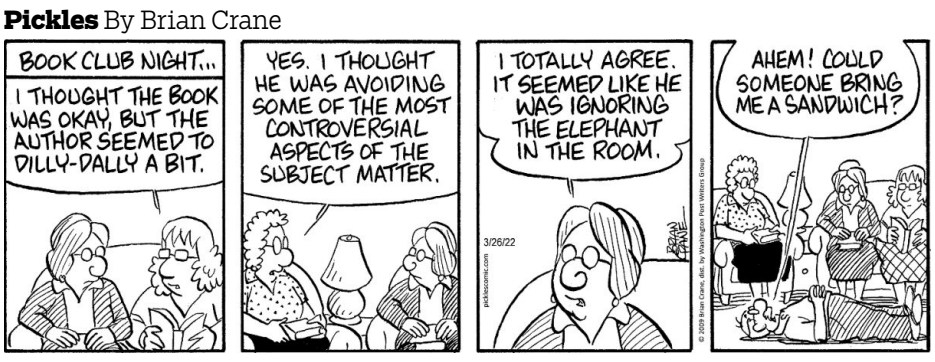
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley

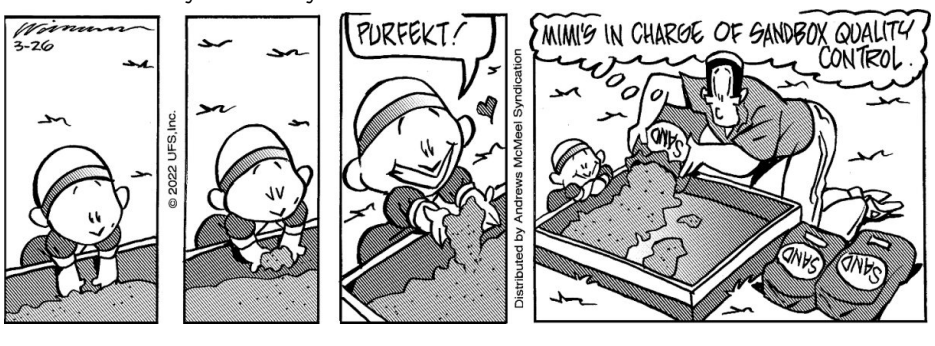


Pickles By Brian Crane

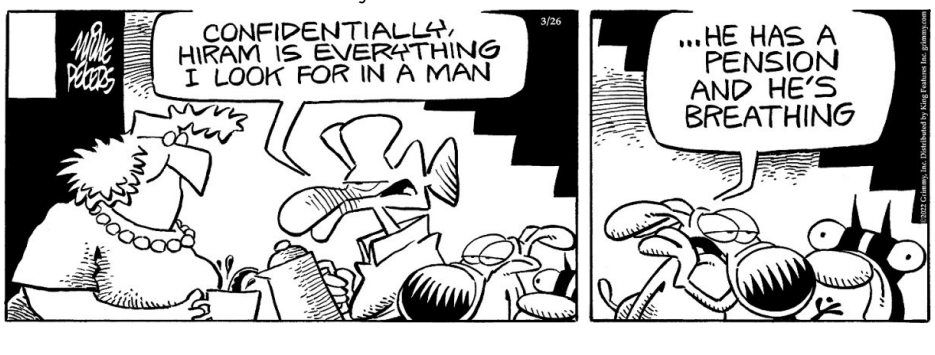


Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

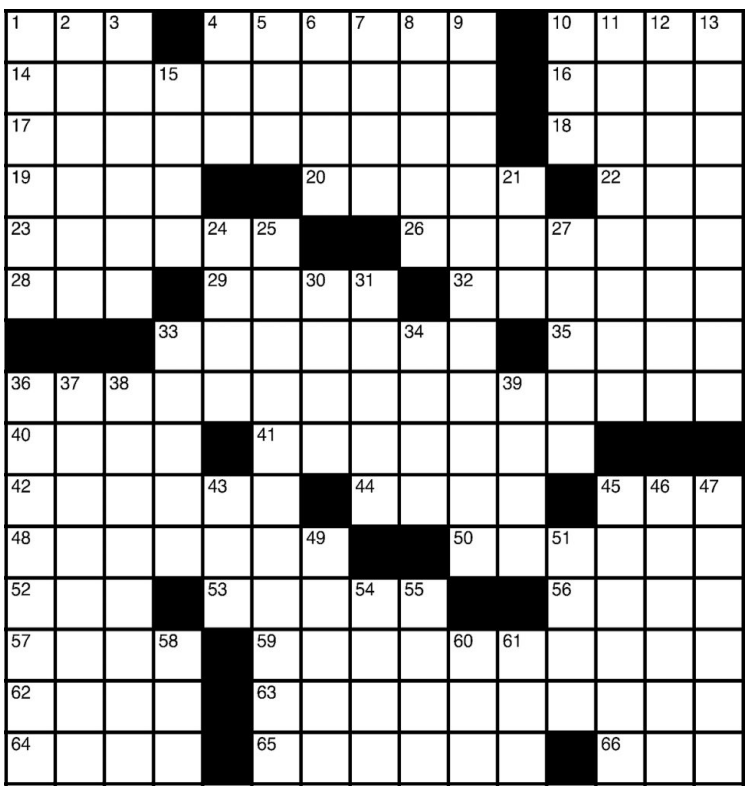
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Scholarly titles, briefly
4 Certain cephalopods
10 Spaghetti strap top
14 "Please tell me that didn't happen!"
16 Rights activist Clooney
17 Banishing acts
18 Choice
19 Strategically placed whoopee cushion, say
20 Waters down
22 Canine greeting
23 About half the weight of an average car
26 Request for a distraction
28 Flower plot
29 Vulgar
32 Hightail it
33 King nicknamed "Long-shanks"
35 Pro fighter
36 Cyborg detective of TV and film
40 Formal denial
41 Email attention-getters
42 Shim, for example
44 Slant
45 Saw from behind?
48 Most charged
50 "Take a chill pill"
52 Include
53 Popular tech service
56 Goddess credited in a Milky Way origin account
57 Stat in standings
59 Smallest Central American country
62 Job under the hood
63 Ones who see what you mean
64 "Come Sail Away" rock band
65 Applies, as flattery
66 Nanjiani's "The Lovebirds" co-star

Down

1 Going platinum, maybe
2 "Hunger" memoirist __ Gay
3 Ate dinner
4 Massage therapist's supply
5 Vinyl successors
6 Buffoon
7 Cry from one who knows the answer
8 Near-the-deadline response, at times
9 "Whatevs"
10 Farm country avian cry
11 "You don't doubt me, do you?"
12 Husky cousin
13 Doorbell response
15 Song one can't perform?
21 Dept. in a "Law & Order" spin-off
24 Shoppe name word
25 It can be faked with air freshener
27 "My heavens!"
30 Power measure
31 Refuse
33 "Paradise Lost" et al.
34 __ coffee
36 Puts on the hard drive
37 Left in disgust or fear, slangily
38 Is ready to act
39 Oscar winner Paquin
43 Brain scan inits.
45 Garden tool
46 Northern sky sight
47 Minimalist
49 Shire of "Rocky"
51 Herring type
54 Road game
55 Metallica drummer Ulrich
58 Census checkbox
60 Cancer follower
61 Soccer mom's usual ride



By Carly Schuna and Will Nediger — Tribune Content Agency 3/26/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 8 6 3
♥ J 9 2
♦ A J 9 7 5
♣ J

WEST
♠ Q J 10 9
♥ A 10 7 3
♦ 2
♣ 8 6 5 4

EAST
♠ 7 4 2
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ 6
♣ K 9 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ Q 6
♦ K Q 10 8 4 3
♣ A Q 10

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
6 ♦			

Opening lead — queen of spades.

How to make tricks without straw

There was not much rhyme or reason for South's six-diamond bid — he had already spoken his piece, and then some, when he jumped to two notrump. Five diamonds would have been entirely adequate.

But players sometimes get lucky, even when they misbid, and South had more than his fair share of luck here. To begin with, West led a spade. Had West led the ace and another heart, the slam would have failed immediately. But he didn't, and thereby hangs this tale.

South took the spade lead with the ace after noting that he had two apparently inevitable heart losers. An early and successful club finesse would allow him to discard one of dummy's hearts, but this would still leave him with two hearts in each hand. However, South also noted that there was a legitimate chance to make the slam if he delayed the club finesse until later on.

So, after playing the king of trump, he led a spade to the king, ruffed a spade, led a trump to the jack and ruffed dummy's last spade.

He then cashed dummy's remaining trumps, producing this position:

North
[H] J 9 2
[C] J

West
[H] A 10 7
[C] 8

East
[H] K
[C] K 9 7

South
[H] Q
[C] A Q 10

Declarer now led the club jack and overtook it with the queen. Reading the position perfectly, South then exited with the queen of hearts.

There was no defense against this highly unusual endplay. If West won the trick, he would have to concede the last two tricks to dummy's J-9 of hearts; if East won, he would have to concede the last two tricks to declarer's A-10 of clubs.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KYNLA

HIGST

MACROL

NARPEC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRONE HOWDY UNDONE OUTRAN
Answer: Kathy and Cathy had new bikes which they — RODE ON THE ROAD

TODAY'S SUDOKU

	1	9			2	5		
6	7		3		4			
						9		
			4					
9				8		1		
				3	6			
		3						
			8		1		5	7
		4	5				2	

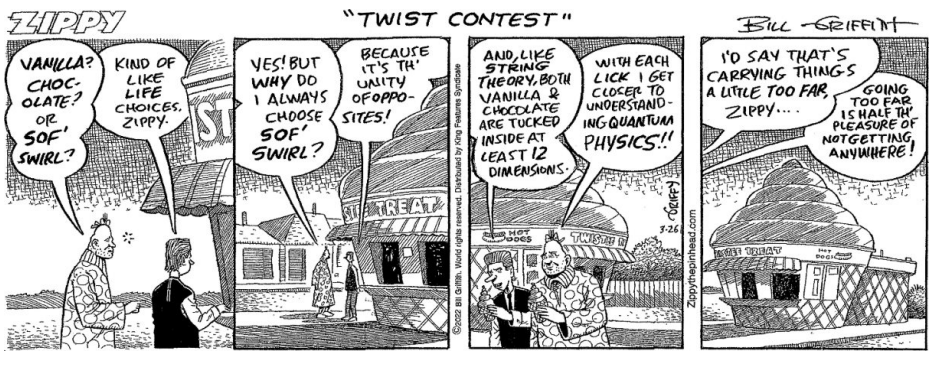
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1	5	6	7	8	2	9	3	4
8	3	7	1	9	4	5	6	2
2	4	9	5	3	6	7	1	8
4	2	5	3	7	1	8	9	6
6	1	3	8	4	9	2	7	5
7	9	8	6	2	5	3	4	1
5	8	4	9	6	3	1	2	7
3	6	1	2	5	7	4	8	9
9	7	2	4	1	8	6	5	3

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	O	R	B		T	A	N	E	Y		C	A	L	F
	V	E	E		E	C	O	N	O		O	T	O	E
C	E	S	T		M	U	S	E	U	M	D	E	N	T
O	R	T			P	R	I	M		A	D	A	G	E
D	U	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y	F	I	L	M		
G	N	O	M	E	S			L	O	D	E			
E	D	D	I	E		L	A	I	R	S		W	A	R
R	E	E	L		F	A	I	N	T		M	O	T	E
S	R	S		P	L	U	M	E		C	A	R	T	S
			G	R	A	N			S	O	T	R	U	E
		F	R	E	N	C	H	I	N	D	H	I	N	A
A	T	L	A	S		H	A	N	A			S	E	L
W	H	A	T	S	U	P	D	O	C		B	O	S	S
L	O	R	E		B	A	T	I	K		E	M	T	
S	U	E	D		I	D	O	L	S		G	E	O	



Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM / SPORTS

Motoring Inside

NCAA TOURNAMENT EAST REGION

Peacocks' run now historic

Saint Peter's shocks Purdue, becomes 1st 15 seed in Elite Eight

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Daryl Banks III scored the tying and go-ahead baskets that pushed 15th-seeded Saint Peter's to the brink of the Final Four, the tiny Peacocks thriving off a home-court edge to beat third-seeded Purdue 67-64 on Friday night.

The Peacocks (22-11) became the first 15 seed to reach the Elite Eight, adding the Boilermakers to their NCAA Tournament string of upsets, and will face either UCLA or North Carolina in the East Region final on Sunday.

Saint Peter's had the fans inside the packed Wells Fargo Center on its side from the opening tip and the arena erupted when Banks tied the game 57-all on a turnaround jumper. He hit a driving layup with 2:17 left that made it 59-57.

The Peacocks kept their composure -- hey, they're used to these wins by now after knocking off No. 2 seed Kentucky and Murray State -- and held off a Purdue team that gamely tried to bully them inside.

"What they going to say now?" coach Shaheen Holloway said

Turn to St. Peter's, Page 5

Saint Peter's players celebrate after beating Purdue in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday in Philadelphia. **MATT SLOCUM/AP**

ELITE 8 AT A GLANCE

Today's games

Houston vs. Villanova
6:09 p.m., TBS

Arkansas vs. Duke
8:49 p.m., TBS

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL

Welcome to a parity party

Top-seeded NC State focused on Notre Dame, not on venue

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

BRIDGEPORT — The North Carolina State women's basketball team felt that it had done pretty much everything it had to do to get the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee's attention. The Wolfpack went 29-3, won the ACC tournament for the third straight year and ended the season ranked No. 2 in the NET [the NCAA Evaluation Tool] rankings behind South Carolina.

South Carolina was awarded the No. 1 seed in the Greensboro Region. The Wolfpack were also awarded a No. 1 seed, but in the Bridgeport Region, with UConn slotted in at No. 2.

North Carolina State will face Notre Dame Saturday in the regional semifinals at 11:30 a.m. at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport. The Wolfpack have not advanced past the Sweet 16 the last three years, so on Friday, coach Wes Moore said he wasn't thinking about potentially playing the Huskies (who face Indiana Saturday in the other regional semifinal) and he downplayed the trip north to what is essentially UConn's backyard.

"Where else would you want to be?" he said. "I've actually been up here before when I was UT-Chattanooga [coach], and this is how old I am, I'm trying to remember if this was the exact place we played. I think it was, so I've been here before.

"They love their basketball up here, so I know there's going to be a lot of energy and all that, but we've got to worry about Notre Dame. Our focus right now is on that game."

But the Bridgeport assignment initially did not sit well with NC State or its fans.

Turn to NC State, Page 4

UConn head coach Geno Auriemma calls out to a player during the second half of a second-round NCAA Tournament game against UCF on Monday in Storrs. The Huskies face third-seeded Indiana today in a Sweet 16 matchup. **JESSICA HILL | AP**

Auriemma: Indiana perfect example of talent growing nationwide

Indiana guard Grace Berger dribbles the ball against Maryland on Feb. 25 in College Park, Maryland. **JULIO CORTEZ/AP**

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

BRIDGEPORT — The times are changing in women's basketball. There are more great players, more schools collecting them, and the middle rounds of the NCAA Tournament are reflecting that with No. 10 seeds Creighton and South Dakota reaching the Sweet 16.

"I know which kinds of kids the supposed big-time schools recruit," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "I think it's ironic how many of those kids got their [butts] beat last weekend by kids that people thought, 'They're not good enough to play for us.' That's a sign the game is growing, that there are going to be more kids you're going to have to look at, and the smart coaches have already figured that out."

One of those smart coaches and programs on the rise is Indiana, which stands in UConn's tournament path. UConn (27-5) and Indiana (24-8) will play for the first time on Saturday, in the Round of 16 at 2 p.m. at Total Mortgage Arena.

"Indiana is a perfect example of this," Auriemma said. "All throughout the season, you heard a lot of people talking about a lot of teams, but Indiana wasn't necessarily on the tip of anyone's tongue. Don't be shocked, I wouldn't be, if they won this whole thing."

Indiana hadn't reached the NCAA Tournament in 12 years before Teri Moren was hired in 2014, replacing current Connecticut Sun coach

Turn to UConn, Page 4

SWEET 16 AT A GLANCE

Today's games

Indiana vs. UConn
2 p.m., ESPN

Notre Dame vs. NC State
11:30 a.m., ESPN

Tennessee vs. Louisville
4 p.m., ESPN2

South Dakota vs. Michigan
6 p.m., ESPN2

INSIDE

■ Bridgeport notes. **Page 4**
■ South Carolina, the top overall seed, fights off North Carolina to make Elite Eight. **Page 4**
■ Women's bracket. **Page 5**

RED SOX

Dalbec looks to unveil his more athletic side this season

By Julian Mcwilliams
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. —You could tell this meant something to Bobby Dalbec early on this spring. Sweat saturated from his blue Red Sox T-shirt. It equally trickled from underneath his blue fitted Sox cap.

The sweltering heat at Fenway South left no room to hide. But Dalbec had no interest in doing so.

Despite working out at a new position in second base, Dalbec made sure to claim center stage.

It caught the attention of just a few observers. He engaged his legs during his prep step. On contact, Dalbec ranged to his left but not before the bunny hop. You can't forget that. That's what triggers the initial movement. The prep step into the bunny hop is key.

Dalbec burst to his left, funneling the ball inward. He pivoted, shifted his body a quarter turn, staying low, keeping the arm angle on that same plane, too, and then delivering a strike to second.

Next play: Prep step into a bunny hop. Left over right was his first movement. This time the ball was more up the middle, testing

Turn to Dalbec, Page 2

Did you know?

A 50-year old driver may need twice as much light to see as comfortably as a 30-year old driver.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn WBB: NCAA Sweet 16 vs. Indiana, Saturday, 2 p.m.; NCAA Elite Eight (if necessary) vs. Notre Dame/NC State, Monday, time TBD; NCAA Final Four (if necessary) vs. TBD, April 1, time TBD
Celtics: Timberwolves, Sunday, 6 p.m.; at Raptors, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Heat, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: at Pistons, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Bulls, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Hornets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Heat, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Hornets, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Pistons, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bruins: Islanders, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; Maple Leafs, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Devils, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Sabres, Sunday, 5 p.m.; at Penguins, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Red Wings, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Hershey, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Utica, Monday, 7 p.m.; at W-B/Scranton, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
9:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Saudi Arabia Grand Prix, Practice 3. (Live) ESPN2
10 a.m.: NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
12:55 p.m.: Formula 1 Racing Saudi Arabia Grand Prix, Qualifying. (Live) ESPN2
1 p.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series XPEL 225. (Live) FS1
4:30 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Pit Boss 250. (Live) FS1
BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Blue Jays at Yankees. (Live) SPRTNET
1 p.m.: Rays at Red Sox. (Live) MLB
3 p.m.: Arkansas at Missouri. (Live) SEC
4 p.m.: Reds at Giants. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Georgia Tech at NC State. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Tennessee at Ole Miss. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Dodgers at Royals. (Live) MLB
BASKETBALL
11:30 a.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Semifinal: Notre Dame vs NC State. (Live) ESPN
2 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Semifinal: Indiana vs UConn. (Live) ESPN
3 p.m.: NCAA Division II Championship. (Live) CBS
4 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Semifinal: Tennessee vs Louisville. (Live) ESPN2
6 p.m.: NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Regional Final: Houston vs. Villanova. (Live) TBS
6:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Regional Semifinal: South Dakota vs Michigan. (Live) ESPN2
8 p.m.: Nets at Heat. (Live) YES
8:30 p.m.: NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Regional Final: Arkansas vs. Duke. (Live) TBS
BOXING
9 p.m.: Tim Tszyu vs. Terrell Gausha. (Live) SHO
10 p.m.: Miguel Berchelt vs. Jeremiah Nakathila. (Live) ESPN
GOLF
7 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
10 a.m.: WGC - Dell Technologies Match Play, Round of 16. (Live) GOLF
2 p.m.: WGC - Dell Technologies Match Play, Quarterfinals. (Live) NBC
2 p.m.: Corales Puntacana Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
5 p.m.: JTBC Classic, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
5 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, Final Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
12:30 p.m.: Islanders at Bruins. (Live) NESN, NHL
3 p.m.: Blackhawks at Golden Knights. (Live) ABC
4 p.m.: NCAA Tournament: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPNU
6:30 p.m.: NCAA Tournament: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPNU
7 p.m.: Maple Leafs at Canadiens. (Live) SPRTNET
10 p.m.: Oilers at Flames. (Live) SPRTNET
LACROSSE
12 p.m.: Duke at Syracuse. (Live) ESPNU
1 p.m.: Notre Dame at Virginia. (Live) ACC
2 p.m.: Michigan at Johns Hopkins. (Live) ESPNU
3 p.m.: Bella.m.: ne at North Carolina. (Live) ACC
SKATING
8 p.m.: Figure Skating ISU World Championships, Women's Free. (Taped) NBC
TENNIS
11 a.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis Miami Open, ATP 2nd Round, WTA 3rd Round. (Live) TENNIS

Yankees relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman throws during the fourth inning against the Phillies on Friday in Clearwater, Florida. **LYNNE SLADKY / AP**

YANKEES

Chapman will occasionally take on an 8th-inning role

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Aroldis Chapman is still the Yankees closer.

Aaron Boone made that clear before Friday's game. It's just that the Bombers want to expand his role this season by using him in the eighth inning at times.

Chapman is comfortable with the change because the job description is still to pitch.

"They spoke to me about it," Chapman said through Yankees interpreter Marlon Abreu. "They told me there's gonna be some situations where I might get in the game in the eighth depending [on the situation].

"And for me at the end of the day, I'm here to pitch, right? So whatever works."

Chapman pitched the fourth inning Friday in the Yankees' 6-5 spring training loss to the Phillies at BayCare Ballpark.

He struck out Darick Hall on a 96-mph fastball, got Kyle Schwarber to pop out and walked Bryson Stott before finishing off Bryce Harper as the National League MVP couldn't catch up to a 98-mph fastball. Chapman threw 17 pitches, nine for strikes. His fastball touched 99 and was consistently in the 96 range.

"Good to see him come in first game action and control the strike zone," Boone said. "He faced all lefties, so not a lot of time for a split [fastball].

"I actually thought he punched [Stott] out. I thought he struck him out on the splitter. The depth on it from the side was really good, but I thought he looked pretty sharp overall."

The Cuban native is coming off one of the worst seasons of his career in 2021 and going into the final year on his contract with questions hanging over him.

Chapman finished with a 3.36 ERA (the second-highest of his career) and allowed nine home runs, the most he has allowed in a major-league season. He also had one of the worst walk rates (15.6%) of any pitcher, and hitters had the highest hard-contact rate off Chapman in his career.

The Yankees actually used Jonathan Loaisiga as their closer last year as they worked to figure out what went wrong for Chapman. Boone said it was mechanical.

"A lot of times Chappy has a little bit of a hiccup; usually it's delivery-related," Boone said. "He just gets a little out of sync.

"I mean, it's such an explosive, like at its best [a] perfect kinetic chain, the force that he's able to create. So he gets a little out of whack there.

"It's those things we tried to address and feel like we did during the season last year. We flirted with his pace a little bit. We thought it helped clean him up a little bit."

NOTES

Severino's stuff looks great, but the control still needs work

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Luis Severino's stuff was as nasty as it's ever been. The command is what the Yankees right-hander has to find now.

Severino struggled to find his release point out of the stretch Friday in his second spring training start, but he isn't worried it will carry into the season.

"I've maybe two or three more starts [in spring] and I'll put everything together," Severino said after allowing three runs in the Yankees 6-5 loss at BayCare Ballpark.

"We have our day off after Opening Day, so we got an extra day there to see what's going to happen. but I feel pretty good. I just need to work out of the stretch throwing strikes and then go to the next outing and do it."

Severino allowed three runs on four hits, walked four and did not strike out a batter in 1 ⅔ innings. He threw 49 pitches, 22 for strikes.

Severino gave up a single to Bryson Stott and walked Bryce Harper and Alec Bohm in the first. They scored on Matt Vierling's double to the center-field wall.

Out of the stretch, Severino looked as if he was struggling to find his release point. He described it as "pushing his body away from his body," but his catcher sees just some minor tweaks to make.

"The stuff is considerably nastier, I think, than last time I caught him," Kyle Higashioka said. "I think once he gets a little better feel for the zone, he's gonna be rolling. ... We were just getting behind on some guys and losing the zone a little bit, but I have all the confidence in the world that he's going to be right where he needs to be by Opening Day."

Severino's fastball touched 96 and sat at 94-95 miles an hour. Having just pitched 27 ⅓ innings over the last three years because of injuries — including Tommy John surgery — that consistent velocity is a good sign.

Getting Higgy with it: Higashioka hammered two home runs Friday, his first and second of the spring. The catcher, who moved into the starting spot when the Yankees traded Gary Sanchez to the Twins, hit a two-run shot to left-center off Phillies starter Kyle Gibson in the second inning and had a solo shot to left field off Brad Hand in the sixth.

"I am seeing the ball well, making some adjustments, just to gain some adjustability," Higashioka said. "It worked pretty good today, so I'm happy with where I'm at so far. We're just gonna keep going through the seasons."

RED SOX NOTES

Mayer impresses Cora in spring debut

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

FORT MYERS, Fla. — As he was walking out of the clubhouse after Thursday night's game in Sarasota against the Orioles, Marcelo Mayer wanted to say something to Alex Cora.

"He's like, 'AC, thank you,'" Cora said. "He was like, 'That was fun.' Not too many kids say that."

Mayer, the Red Sox's first-round draft pick, had just wrapped up playing in his first career spring training game. The shortstop entered the game in the sixth inning, had two plate appearances and even had a chance to play the infield with 2020 first-rounder Nick Yorke — giving the Red Sox a little glimpse of their future up the middle.

"I know it meant a lot for them just to play together and be in that environment," Cora said. "It's a good taste."

And as he's consistently done since he was drafted last July, Mayer impressed. In his first plate appearance against Orioles pitcher Travis Lakins, the 19-year-old showed patience in the moment and drew a calm, four-pitch walk.

Mayer's poise stood out to Cora.

"Me and Jason [Varitek], we were talking about it like, I still remember my first at-bat in Vero," Cora said. "We're not even in the same talent level, but I was so nervous and just ready to swing regardless. With him, he takes a walk. It's kind of like Yorke last year.

"One of the things we keep saying, those few weeks [of minor-league camp] with all these guys without media, without the big-leaguers, without fans, it actually helped us to connect with them.

"And you see in the dugout the way they interact, the way they talk. ... They feel very comfortable."

Brasier no lock: Ryan Brasier is expected to pitch again this weekend after a shaky spring debut Wednesday, when he gave up four runs on four hits — including a home run — in two-thirds of an inning. Cora said after the reliever needs to get his velocity up.

A year ago Brasier overcame a lot of adversity to become an important piece of the Red Sox's bullpen, but there's no guarantee he'll make the 28-man Opening Day roster. He'll have more to prove over the next two weeks.

"He was very important for us last year, but there are no promises here," Cora said. "There are a lot of pitchers here and everybody has to do their job. We'll take the best 28 when we have to make decisions."

Another OF possibility: It looks like Rob Refsnyder has a pretty good chance of making the Red Sox's Opening Day roster as an outfielder off the bench, especially with the expanded roster.

Refsnyder — who signed a minor-league deal with the Red Sox in November — could be an option for Cora against left-handed pitching. He hit .304 with a .784 OPS in 64 plate appearances against lefties last season.

Dalbec

from Page 1

Dalbec's range and creativity.

If he stopped to field it cleanly, funneling the ball into his body, that would take too much time, likely leaving no chance at a double play in a real game. So, Dalbec kept moving at a controlled pace. He didn't want to stop his momentum, per se, but more so, go with it, allowing gravity to take him as it pleased. Dalbec worked his way into a backhand flip, never taking the ball out his glove.

The round was over. Dalbec, picking up the baseballs that were spread throughout the infield grass, turned to those few observers standing in the third base dugout

"Do I still look unathletic?" Dalbec asked.

The question was lighthearted in tone. A joke, in fact. But the best jokes can often make you think.

This one made you think about Dalbec, the athlete.

Athleticism takes on different connotations. Yet in the public eye, it can often get boxed in as just one of a few characteristics. Can you jump high? Athlete. Are you a plus runner? Athlete. Can you run, jump, throw, hit, and field? Five-tool player. Certainly an athlete.

But what about the Dalbecs of the world. The one who the Red Sox were willing to play at second base before signing Trevor Story? The one who the Red Sox had taking some reps in the outfield, too? The one who can play third (his natural position), shortstop, learn first base on a fly for a team in contention? The one who caught manager Alex Cora's eye during his college eyes not as a position player, but a pitcher?

"Bobby is one of our best athletes," Cora said. " I still believe that Bobby can be a good pitcher. And he can run. He moves."

That, in fact, is an athlete. But if you Google "Bobby Dalbec," much of what has been documented has to do with his light-tower power.

"I don't blame anyone," Dalbec said. "They see me and see a big power guy, it's easy to be like, 'He's a non-athlete.' I work really hard to be agile and quick. I had one of the top sprint speeds on the team last year."

Indeed, he did. Dalbec ranked No. 4 on the Red Sox in sprint speed last season at 28.2 feet per second. For context, Franchy Cordero — widely known as a freak athlete — ranked second for the Red Sox at 28.6. Dalbec noted that he played basketball, too, alongside Celtics guard Derrick White at Legend High School in Parker, Colo. White was a year ahead of Dalbec. The pair played together for two seasons on varsity when Dalbec was a freshman and sophomore. It wasn't until Dalbec's junior year that he decided to just focus on baseball.

"I wouldn't say that I'm a freak or explosive athlete in the sense of sprinting and jumping and stuff, but I'm more athletic than people think," Dalbec said.

But, again, athleticism goes beyond just sprinting and jumping or body type.

"No matter what the body build is, I mean, you're still making athletic movements exceptionally well," Jackie Bradley Jr. said on the topic.

Still, the notion around the 26-year-old not being an athlete can be associated to his play at first base last year. Dalbec did look unathletic at the position. Rigid. He didn't show the same range to his left that he showed when he played on the left side of the infield. But much of that had to do with Dalbec being unsure at a new position.

"I was learning a position and didn't quite grasp what I needed to do footwork-wise and where to be and how to get to the bag," Dalbec said.

METS

Alonso wants to play first base, not be DH

By Anthony Rieber
Newsday

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Buck Showalter's lineup against the Astros on Friday night had Pete Alonso at designated hitter and Dom Smith at first base.

If any eyebrows were raised, they should be immediately lowered. Even if Smith hits enough to garner more playing time than expected in 2022, Showalter put to bed any idea that he was considering Alonso for extended designated hitter duty this season — something that has to make the DH-loathing Alonso happy.

"He hasn't expressed it (to me)," Showalter said of Alonso's desire to not be a DH. "I'll listen to him. But he knows he's our first baseman, and if we do that it's just for a leg (rest) thing."

In the waning days of last season — when it wasn't clear who the Mets manager would be in 2022 or if the National League would adopt the DH as part of the new collective bargaining agreement — Alonso made no bones about his plans to be a full-time player.

"I'm a really good first baseman with potential to win a Gold Glove," he said. "I would be selling myself short to label myself as (a DH). If I need to DH maybe one day or if someone needs to rotate in, that's fine. But I'm a first baseman. I don't think I'll ever think of myself as a DH."

Showalter agrees that Alonso is improving as a defender.

"He's getting better and better every year," Showalter said. "Takes a lot of pride in it. Some guys just say, 'Hey, I hit 40, 50 (home runs).' He wants to be as good as he can be. He works hard at it. He wants to be good. You get a lot of first basemen who catch a ball and take a short hop. It's their ability to throw that separates them. Pete's really been working on that."

In 2020, when the NL had the DH as part of the pandemic-shortened season, Alonso started 17 times at the spot and 38 times at first. As the DH, he hit .203 with a .715 OPS. As a first baseman, he hit .247 with an .870 OPS.

Showalter said he chose a road spring training game for Alonso's DH day because the slugger lives close to the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, as does Francisco Lindor, who also made the trip to face the Astros.

"The reason we did it today is I want Pete to get four, five at-bats," Showalter said. "I didn't want him to be on the field for all those. Plus, he lives 10 minutes from here. Lindor lives real close by, too. Works out good. Usually, guys like them usually don't have gray (road) pants in their locker. With them living over here, it's actually easier for them. Like the other night, Lindor's in bed before we get back to the complex."

The other part of the equation is Smith, who was one of the best hitters on the club in 2020 (.993 OPS) and much less than that in 2021 (.667 OPS). Smith revealed when camp opened that he played with a partially torn labrum in his right shoulder last season.

Smith doesn't have a regular role, but he fits into the DH jumble along with Robinson Cano, J.D. Davis and Alonso. But the last one will apparently only be when Showalter wants to give Alonso a partial day off and use the defensively superior Smith at first.

"I think the need — if Pete needs a day off his legs, I'd probably put Dom over there," Showalter said. "So it's a great luxury to have."

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	45	27	.625	—
Boston	46	28	.622	—
Toronto	41	32	.562	4½
Brooklyn	38	35	.521	7½
New York	31	42	.425	14½

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Miami	47	26	.644	—
Charlotte	38	36	.514	9½
Atlanta	36	37	.493	11
Washington	31	42	.425	16
Orlando	20	54	.270	27½

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	46	27	.630	—
Chicago	42	31	.575	4
Cleveland	41	32	.562	5
Indiana	25	49	.338	21½
Detroit	20	54	.270	26½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Memphis	51	23	.689	—
Dallas	45	28	.616	5½
New Orleans	31	42	.425	19½
San Antonio	29	44	.397	21½
Houston	18	55	.247	32½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	45	29	.608	—
Denver	43	31	.581	2
Minnesota	42	32	.568	3
Portland	27	45	.375	17
Oklahoma City	21	52	.288	23½

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Phoenix	60	14	.811	—
Golden State	48	25	.658	11½
L.A. Clippers	36	38	.486	24
L.A. Lakers	31	42	.425	28½
Sacramento	26	48	.351	34

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 100, Detroit 97
Charlotte 107, Utah 101
Golden State at Atlanta, late
Dallas at Minnesota, late
New York at Miami, late
Houston at Portland, late
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
San Antonio at New Orleans, 5p.m.
Sacramento at Orlando, 7p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Miami, 8p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 8p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Denver, 9p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
New York at Detroit, 3:30p.m.
Golden State at Washington, 6p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 6p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 6p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 7p.m.
Charlotte at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 7:30p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Indiana, 7p.m.
Denver at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Orlando at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Chicago at New York, 7:30p.m.
Sacramento at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Golden State at Memphis, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Portland, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 117, Cleveland 104
Memphis 133, Indiana 103
Milwaukee 114, Washington 102
New Orleans 126, Chicago 109
Phoenix 140, Denver 130

TENNIS

MIAMI OPEN
At Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla.; hardcourt-outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 64
#2Alexander Zverev d.
Borna Coric, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Nick Kyrgios d.
#5Andrey Rublev, 6-3, 6-0.
#6Casper Ruud d.
Henri Laaksonen, 6-1, 6-2.
#9Jannik Sinner d.
EmilRuusuvuori, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(8).
#10Cameron Norrie d.
Jack Draper, 7-6(5), 6-4.
Thanasi Kokkinakis d.
#13 Diego Schwartzman, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Francisco Cerundolo d.
#16Reilly Opelka, 6-1, 3-1, walkover.
#17Pablo Carreno Busta d.
David Goffin, 6-3, 6-2.
Denis Kudla d.
#19Lorenzo Sonego, 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-4.
Hugo Gaston d.
#20John Isner, 7-6(5), 6-4.
#22Gael Monfils d.
Oscar Otte, 7-6(9), 6-1.
Mackenzie McDonald d.
#26Grigor Dimitrov, 6-1, 6-4.
#30Alexander Bublik d.
Daniel Elahi Galan, 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-4.
#31Fabio Fognini d.
Taro Daniel, 6-7(1), 6-2, 7-6(5).
Juan Manuel Cerundolo d.
Kevin Anderson, 7-6(7), 3-6, 6-3.
#28Frances Tiafoe vs.
Brandon Nakashima, late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 64
#2Iga Swiatek d.
Viktorija Golubic, 6-2, 6-0.
Beatriz Haddad Maia d.
#4Maria Sakkari, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.
#5Paula Badosa d.
Marie Bouzkova, 7-5, 7-5.
Shelby Rogers d.
#10Jelena Ostapenko, 6-3, 7-6(0).
#11Veronika Kudermetova d.
Dalma Galfi, 5-1, ret.
#14Coco Gauff d.
Wang Qiang, 7-5, 6-4.
#16Jessica Pegula d.
Sloane Stephens, 6-1, 6-4.
#17Elena Rybakina d.
Elena-Gabriela Ruse, 6-4, 7-5.
Linda Fruhvirtova d.
#20Elise Mertens, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1.
#21 Veronika Kudermetova d.
Dalma Galfi, 5-1, walkover.
Zhang Shuai d.
#24Sorana Cirstea, 6-1, 6-1.
#28Petra Kvitova d.
Clara Burel, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
Madison Brengle d.
#29Liudmila Samsonova, 6-4, 6-0.
Lauren Davis d.
Storm Sanders, 6-4, 6-1.
Yulia Putintseva d.
Lesia Tsurenko, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.
Anhelina Kalinina d.
#26Madison Keys, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
#12Victoria Azarenka vs.
Ekaterina Alexandrova, late

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	SATURDAY	
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Southern Utah	4	Portland
Houston	2	Villanova
Duke	3½	Arkansas

NBA			SATURDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at New Orleans	4½	(232½)	San Antonio
at Orlando	2½	(224½)	Sacramento
at Toronto	10	(226)	Indiana
at Memphis	Off	(Off)	Milwaukee
Chicago	1	(Off)	at Cleveland
at Miami	2	(Off)	Brooklyn
at Denver	13½	(Off)	Okla. City
Houston	3½	(235½)	at Portland

NHL			SATURDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
at Boston	-164	N.Y. Islanders	+136
Tampa Bay	-285	at Detroit	+230
at Las Vegas	Off	Chicago	Off
Florida	-300	at Ottawa	+240
at Dallas	-160	Vancouver	+132
at Washington	-220	New Jersey	+180
at Montreal	Off	Toronto	Off
Carolina	Off	at St. Louis	Off
at Minnesota	Off	Columbus	Off
at Calgary	-176	Edmonton	+146
at San Jose	-152	Anaheim	+126
at Los Angeles	-220	Seattle	+180

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	63	43	14	6	92	258	183
Toronto	63	40	18	5	85	232	191
Boston	64	40	19	5	85	194	171
Tampa Bay	63	39	18	6	84	209	180
Detroit	64	26	31	7	59	186	240
Buffalo	64	23	33	8	54	171	223
Ottawa	64	23	36	5	51	167	209
Montreal	64	17	37	10	44	163	242
METRO	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	64	42	15	7	91	209	154
Pittsburgh	66	39	17	10	88	214	177
N.Y. Rangers	65	41	19	5	87	198	168
Washington	65	35	20	10	80	216	185
Columbus	64	32	29	3	67	211	239
N.Y. Islanders	62	28	25	9	65	170	168
Philadelphia	64	21	32	11	53	164	222
New Jersey	64	23	36	5	51	197	233

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	64	45	14	5	95	245	178
Minnesota	62	38	20	4	80	231	198
St. Louis	63	35	19	9	79	224	180
Nashville	65	37	24	4	78	212	190
Dallas	63	36	24	3	75	188	188
Winnipeg	65	30	25	10	70	203	203
Chicago	65	24	32	9	57	175	224
Arizona	63	20	39	4	44	164	228
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	63	38	17	8	84	218	153
Los Angeles	66	35	22	9	79	191	186
Edmonton	65	36	24	5	77	222	206
Vegas	67	35	28	4	74	211	202
Vancouver	66	31	26	9	71	188	190
Anaheim	66	27	28	11	65	188	214
San Jose	64	28	28	8	64	169	203
Seattle	64	20	38	6	46	168	228

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 1
Washington at Buffalo, late
Columbus at Winnipeg, late
Arizona at Calgary, late
Philadelphia at Colorado, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 12:30p.m.
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 12:30p.m.
Chicago at Vegas, 3p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7p.m.
Toronto at Montreal, 7p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 7p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Columbus at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 10p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 10:30p.m.
Seattle at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 4, Montreal 3
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2
Dallas 4, Carolina 3(SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5, Detroit 2
Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 2
Ottawa 5, Winnipeg 2
Minnesota 3, Vancouver 2(OT)
Edmonton 5, San Jose 2
Chicago 4, Los Angeles 3(SO)
Vegas 6, Nashville 1

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT
TUESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
at Madison Square Garden, New York
Xavier vs. Saint Bonaventure, 7p.m.
Washington St. vs. Texas A&M, 9:30p.m.

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC
SATURDAY'S QUARTERFINAL
Portland vs. Southern Utah, 6p.m.
MONDAY'S SEMIFINAL
Coastal Carolina at S. Alabama, 8p.m.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT
GREENSBORO REGIONAL
Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.
Friday's Regional Semifinals
South Carolina 69, North Carolina 61
Iowa State vs. Creighton, late
Sunday, Regional Championship
WICHITA REGIONAL
At Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kan.
Saturday's Regional Semifinals
Louisville vs. Tennessee, 4p.m.
South Dakota vs. Michigan, 6:30p.m.
Monday, Regional Championship
SPOKANE REGIONAL
At Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena
Friday's Regional Semifinals
Texas 66, Ohio State 63
Stanford vs. Maryland, late
Sunday, Regional Championship
BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL
Total Mortgage, Bridgeport, Conn.
Saturday's Regional Semifinals
NC State vs. Notre Dame, 11:30 a.m.
UConn vs. Indiana, 2p.m.
Monday, Regional Championship

WOMEN'S NIT
Francis S. Levien Gymnasium, New York
SUNDAY'S QUARTERFINALS
Oregon St. vs. UCLA, 3p.m.
S. Dakota St. vs. Alabama, 6p.m.
MONDAY'S QUARTERFINALS
Columbia vs. Seton Hall, 8p.m.
Toledo vs. Middle Tennessee, 7p.m.
THURSDAY'S THIRD ROUND
Alabama 79, Houston 64
Columbia 54, Boston College 51
Seton Hall 78, Drexel 71
Middle Tennessee, 55, Vanderbilt 53
Toledo 92, Marquette, 82
South Dakota State 84, Drake 66
UCLA 82, Wyoming 81 (3OT)
Oregon State 78, New Mexico 73

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	3	0	1	10	7	2
Columbus	2	0	2	8	10	5
Chicago	2	0	2	8	5	1
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	1	7	8	4
Orlando City	2	1	1	7	4	2
Atlanta	2	1	1	7	8	8
D.C. United	2	2	0	6	5	4
Cincinnati	2	2	0	6	5	8
New York City FC	1	2	1	4	4	4
New England	1	2	1	4	6	8
Toronto FC	1	2	1	4	5	8
Charlotte FC	1	3	0	3	4	7
CF Montréal	0	3	1	1	5	11
Inter Miami CF	0	3	1	1	2	10
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles FC	3	0	1	10	9	2
Real Salt Lake	3	0	1	10	6	3
Minnesota United	2	0	2	8	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	1	7	11	3
FC Dallas	2	1	1	7	7	3
Colorado	2	1	1	7	6	4
LA Galaxy	2	2	0	6	4	4
Houston	1	1	2	5	3	3
Portland	1	1	2	5	5	7
Seattle	1	2	1	4	4	5
Nashville	1	2	1	4	3	5
Kansas City	1	3	0	3	3	8
San Jose	0	3	1	1	4	9
Vancouver	0	3	1	1	2	9

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Cincinnati at Charlotte FC, 5 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Sporting KC, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY'S MATCH
Orlando City at Portland, 4 p.m.

NWSL CHALLENGE CUP
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Houston 3, Racing Louisville 2
Gotham FC 1, Washington 1
Kansas City at Chicago, late
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
OL Reign at Angel City FC, 4 p.m.
Orlando at North Carolina, 7 p.m.
Portland at San Diego, 10 p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Liverpool vs. Watford, 7:30a.m.
Brighton vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Burnley vs. Man City, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Leeds vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Man United vs. Leicester, 12:30p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE
q-March 24: U.S. 0, Mexico 0
q-Sunday: vs. Panama, at Exploria Stadium, Orlando, Fla., 7 p.m.
q-World Cup qualifying

GOLF

WGC DELL TECHNOLOGIES MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday's third round rund-robin play at Austin (Texas) Country Club.

G	GOLFER (SD)	REC	SC
1	Patrick Reed (23)	1-1-1	d.
1	Jon Rahm (1)	2-1-0	**3&2**
1	Sebastián Muñoz (58)	1-1-1	d.
1	Cameron Young (40)	1-2-0	**1up**
2	Collin Morikawa (2)	2-0-1	d.
2	Jason Kokrak (22)	1-2-0	**1up**
2	Robert MacIntyre (61)	1-2-0	d.
2	Sergio Garcia (43)	1-1-1	**4&2**
3	Will Zalatoris (24)	2-1-0	d.
3	Viktor Hovland (3)	2-1-0	**1up**
3p	Will Zalatoris (24)	2-1-0	d.
3p	Viktor Hovland (3)	2-1-0	**2h**
3	Cameron Tringale (45)	1-2-0	d.
3	Sepp Straka (63)	1-2-0	**5&3**
4	Patrick Cantlay (4)	1-1-1	d.
4	Sungjae Im (21)	1-2-0	**2&1**
4	Keith Mitchell (62)	1-1-1	d.
4	Seamus Power (42)	2-1-0	**2&1**
5	Scottie Scheffler (5)	2-1-0	d.
5	Matt Fitzpatrick (20)	2-1-0	**5&4**
5	Ian Poulter (59)	1-2-0	d.
5	Tommy Fleetwood (41)	1-2-0	**4&3**
5p	Scottie Scheffler (5)	2-1-0	d.
5p	Matt Fitzpatrick (20)	2-1-0	**6h**
6	Kevin Kisner (29)	3-0-0	d.
6	Justin Thomas (6)	1-2-0	**4&3**
6	Marc Leishman (37)	1-2-0	d.
6	Luke List (53)	1-2-0	**3&2**
7	Tony Finau (18)	1-2-0	d.
7	Xander Schauffele (7)	1-2-0	**4&2**
7	Takumi Kanaya (56)	2-1-0	d.
7	Lucas Herbert (39)	2-1-0	**5&4**
7p	Takumi Kanaya (56)	2-1-0	d.
7p	Lucas Herbert (39)	2-1-0	**1h**
8	Dustin Johnson (8)	3-0-0	d.
8	Max Homa (30)	1-2-0	**1up**
8	Mackenzie Hughes (51)	2-1-0	d.
8	Matthew Wolff (38)	0-3-0	**1up**
9	Talor Gooch (27)	2-1-0	d.
9	Bryson DeChambeau (9)	0-1-1	**2up**
9	Richard Bland (54)	2-0-1	d.
9	Lee Westwood (47)	1-2-0	**2&1**
10	Louis Oosthuizen (10)	1-2-0	d.
10	Paul Casey (19)	0-3-0	**con**
10	Corey Conners (36)	3-0-0	d.
10	Alex Noren (50)	2-1-0	**3&2**
11	Adam Scott (32)	2-0-1	d.
11	Jordan Spieth (11)	1-2-0	**3&2**
11	Justin Rose (46)	1-1-1	vs.
11	Keegan Bradley (60)	0-1-2	**tied**
12	Billy Horschel (12)	2-0-1	vs.
12	Thomas Pieters (26)	1-1-0	**tied**
12	Tom Hoge (33)	0-2-1	vs.
12	Min Woo Lee (49)	1-1-1	**tied**
13	Tyrrell Hatton (13)	3-0-0	d.
13	Daniel Berger (17)	1-2-0	**2up**
13	Si Woo Kim (48)	2-1-0	d.
13	Christiaan Bezuidenhout (52)	0-3-0	**6&4**
14	Kevin Na (25)	2-0-1	d.
14	Joaquin Niemann (14)	1-2-0	**1up**
14	Maverick McNealy (64)	2-0-1	d.
14	Russell Henley (34)	0-3-0	**2&1**
14p	Kevin Na (25)	2-0-1	d.
14p	Maverick McNealy (64)	2-0-1	**1h**
15	Abraham Ancer (15)	2-0-1	d.
15	Webb Simpson (31)	1-2-0	**2up**
15	Brian Harman (44)	0-1-2	vs.
15	Bubba Watson (57)	1-1-1	**tied**
16	Brooks Koepka (16)	3-0-0	d.
16	Shane Lowry (28)	1-2-0	**1up**
16	Harold Varner III (35)	2-1-0	d.
16	Erik van Rooyen (55)	0-3-0	**5&4**

p-playoff

PGA CORALES PUNTACANA CHAMPIONSHIP
2nd of 4 rounds, Corales GC, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 7,670 yards, Par 72

Ben Martin	66-66—132	-12
Alex Smalley	69-65—134	-10
Chad Ramey	70-65—135	-9
Adam Schenk	67-68—135	-9
Graeme McDowell	68-68—136	-8
Nate Lashley	69-68—137	-7
Wyndham Clark	70-68—138	-6
Thomas Detry	69-69—138	-6
David Lipsky	73-65—138	-6
Greyson Sigg	69-69—138	-6
Brian Stuard	70-68—138	-6
Vince Whaley	70-68—138	-6
Bill Haas	72-67—139	-5
Ben Kohles	72-67—139	-5
David Lingmerth	69-70—139	-5
Justin Lower	74-65—139	-5
Andrew Novak	70-69—139	-5
Cameron Percy	71-68—139	-5
Vaughn Taylor	68-71—139	-5
Sahith Theegala	71-68—139	-5
Martin Trainer	69-70—139	-5
Ryan Armour	69-71—140	-4
Rafael Campos	72-68—140	-4
Kevin Chappell	73-67—140	-4
Brandon Hagy	70-70—140	-4
Rasmus Hojgaard	73-67—140	-4
Seth Reeves	70-70—140	-4
Chase Seiffert	70-70—140	-4
Nick Taylor	72-68—140	-4
Jhonattan Vegas	70-70—140	-4
Danny Willett	71-69—140	-4
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	68-73—141	-3
Brice Garnett	74-67—141	-3
Kramer Hickok	73-68—141	-3
Hudson Swafford	74-67—141	-3
Curtis Thompson	72-69—141	-3
Brandon Wu	69-72—141	-3
Scott Brown	71-71—142	-2
Wesley Bryan	70-72—142	-2
Hayden Buckley	68-74—142	-2
Jonathan Byrd	70-72—142	-2
Greg Chalmers	73-69—142	-2
Tyler Duncan	71-71—142	-2
Robert Garrigus	70-72—142	-2
Michael Gligic	72-70—142	-2
Rick Lamb	72-70—142	-2
Hank Lebioda	71-71—142	-2
Bryson Nimmer	70-72—142	-2
Seung-Yul Noh	71-71—142	-2
Sean O'Hair	71-71—142	-2
Matthias Schwab	73-69—142	-2
Kevin Stadler	72-70—142	-2
Dylan Wu	73-69—142	-2
Austin Cook	73-70—143	-1
Jason Dufner	70-73—143	-1
Patrick Flavin	72-71—143	-1
Scott Gutschewski	73-70—143	-1
Bo Hoag	74-69—143	-1
John Huh	73-70—143	-1
Jim Knous	73-70—143	-1
Trey Mullinax	73-70—143	-1
D.A. Points	72-71—143	-1
D.J. Trahan	70-73—143	-1
Peter Uihlein	75-68—143	-1
Camilo Villegas	74-69—143	-1

LATE THURSDAY: LPGA JTBC CLASSIC
1st of 4 rounds at Aviara Golf Club - Carlsbad, Calif; 6609 yards, par 72

Jin Young Ko	32-33—65	-7
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	32-34—66	-6
Hye Jin Choi	33-34—67	-5
Gemma Dryburgh	33-34—67	-5
Cheyenne Knight	34-33—67	-5
Pajaree Anannarukarn	32-36—68	-4
Lydia Ko	34-34—68	-4
Maude-Aimee Leblanc	31-37—68	-4
Mo Martin	37-31—68	-4
Ryann O'Toole	31-37—68	-4
Na Rin An	35-34—69	-3
In Gee Chun	35-34—69	-3
Charley Hull	32-37—69	-3
Ariya Jutanugarn	38-31—69	-3
Moriya Jutanugarn	33-36—69	-3
Danielle Kang	35-34—69	-3
Haeji Kang	34-35—69	-3
In-Kyung Kim	33-36—69	-3
Jessica Korda	35-34—69	-3
Minjee Lee	34-35—69	-3
Alison Lee	35-34—69	-3
Leona Maguire	36-33—69	-3
Stephanie Meadow	35-34—69	-3
Emma Talley	33-36—69	-3
Atthaya Thitikul	35-34—69	-3
Alana Uriell	35-34—69	-3
Maria Fassi	36-34—70	-2
Nasa Hataoka	34-36—70	-2
Muni He	34-36—70	-2
Jillian Hollis	34-36—70	-2
Janie Jackson	36-34—70	-2
Eun-Hee Ji	37-33—70	-2
Agathe Laisne	36-34—70	-2
Mirim Lee	33-37—70	-2
Jeongeun Lee	33-37—70	-2
Stacy Lewis	38-32—70	-2
Xiyu Lin	36-34—70	-2
Gerina Mendoza-Piller	36-34—70	-2
Sarah Schmelzel	36-34—70	-2
P. Thanapolboonyaras	34-36—70	-2
Albane Valenzuela	35-35—70	-2
Brittany Altomare	34-37—71	-1
Cydney Clanton	36-35—71	-1
Lauren Coughlin	38-33—71	-1
Olivia Cowan	35-36—71	-1
Dana Finkelstein	35-36—71	-1
Jaye Marie Green	36-35—71	-1
Haylee Harford	35-36—71	-1
Yaeeun Hong	35-36—71	-1
Frida Kinhult	35-36—71	-1
Katherine Kirk	37-34—71	-1
Jeong Eun Lee	35-36—71	-1
Min Lee	37-34—71	-1
Brittany Lincicome	33-38—71	-1
Ruixin Liu	35-36—71	-1
Morgane Metraux	34-37—71	-1
Yealimi Noh	36-35—71	-1
Anna Nordqvist	35-36—71	-1
Inbee Park	34-37—71	-1
Emily Pedersen	35-36—71	-1
Katherine Perry-Hamski	34-37—71	-1
Madelene Sagstrom	36-35—71	-1
Hinako Shibuno	35-36—71	-1
Jasmine Suwannapura	36-35—71	-1
Lilia Vu	37-34—71	-1
Dewi Weber	33-38—71	-1
Jennifer Chang	36-36—72	E
Chella Choi	35-37—72	E
Jenny Coleman	36-36—72	E
Allison Emrey	35-37—72	E
Austin Ernst	33-39—72	E
Ayaka Furue	34-38—72	E
Isi Gabsa	33-39—72	E
Cristie Kerr	36-36—72	E
Christina Kim	34-38—72	E
Gaby Lopez	35-37—72	E
Sung Hyun Park	35-37—72	E
Annie Park	36-36—72	E
Pornanong Phatlum	36-36—72	E
Paula Reto	35-37—72	E
Pauline Roussin-Bouchard	37-35—72	E
Lizette Salas	37-35—72	E
Jennifer Song	35-37—72	E
Maddie Szeryk	36-36—72	E
Kelly Tan	34-38—72	E
Amy Yang	35-37—72	E

QATAR MASTERS
2nd of 4rounds, Doha GC,Doha, Qatar, 7,466yards; Par 72

Pablo Larrazabal	64-71—135	-9
Chase Hanna	70-66—136	-8
Adrian Meronk	66-70—136	-8
Wilco Nienaber	68-68—136	-8
Romain Langasque	66-71—137	-7
Ewen Ferguson	67-71—138	-6
Daniel Gavins	71-67—138	-6
Matthew Jordan	69-69—138	-6
Lukas Nemecz	71-67—138	-6
Julien Brun	70-69—139	-5
Jens Dantorp	68-71—139	-5
Marcus Kinhult	74-65—139	-5
Thriston Lawrence	70-69—139	-5
Edoardo Molinari	69-70—139	-5
Shubhankar Sharma	66-73—139	-5
David Drysdale	72-68—140	-4
Zander Lombard	68-72—140	-4
Ross McGowan	69-71—140	-4
Thorbjorn Olesen	71-69—140	-4
Wade Ormsby	68-72—140	-4
Adrian Otaegui	70-70—140	-4
Robin Roussel	71-69—140	-4
Paul Waring	69-71—140	-4
Jonathan Caldwell	71-70—141	-3
Laurie Canter	68-73—141	-3
Ross Fisher	69-72—141	-3
Lorenzo Gagli	71-70—141	-3
Marcus Helligkilde	66-75—141	-3
Niall Kearney	70-71—141	-3
Mikko Korhonen	69-72—141	-3
Carlos Pigem	74-67—141	-3
Bernd Ritthammer	71-70—141	-3
Oliver Wilson	71-70—141	-3
Wil Besseling	71-71—142	-2
Dean Burmester	70-72—142	-2
Hennie Du Plessis	72-70—142	-2
Darren Fichardt	72-70—142	-2
Maximilian Kieffer	71-71—142	-2
Jacques Kruyswijk	71-71—142	-2
Andrea Pavan	69-73—142	-2
Justin Walters	74-68—142	-2

BASEBALL

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
Kansas City	5	1	.833
Texas	5	1	.833
Boston	6	3	.667
Chicago	5	3	.625
Cleveland	4	3	.571
Los Angeles	4	3	.571
Toronto	4	3	.571
Baltimore	3	4	.429
Detroit	3	3	.500
Houston	3	4	.429
Seattle	2	3	.400
Minnesota	3	6	.333
Oakland	2	4	.333
New York	2	5	.286
Tampa Bay	1	5	.167

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
St. Louis	5	1	.833
Atlanta	3	1	.750
Miami	4	2	.667
Philadelphia	4	2	.667
Pittsburgh	4	2	.667
Cincinnati	4	3	.571
Chicago	4	4	.500
Colorado	4	4	.500
New York	3	3	.500
Milwaukee	3	4	.429
Arizona	3	5	.375
San Diego	2	4	.333
San Francisco	2	5	.286
Los Angeles	1	3	.250
Washington	1	6	.143

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 6, Boston 3
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Yankees 5
Pittsburgh 2, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 5, Washington 4
Tampa Bay 9, Baltimore 4
Detroit 8, Toronto 4
Texas 8, Kansas City 4
Oakland 6, Milwaukee 3
L.A. Angels 5, Arizona 5
Colorado 17, Chicago Cubs 1
Cleveland 10, San Francisco 2
Houston 2, N.Y. Mets 1
San Diego vs. L.A. Dodgers, late
Chicago White Sox vs. Seattle, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota vs. Atlanta, 1:05p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Boston, 1:05p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Detroit, 1:05p.m.
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees, 1:05p.m.
Miami vs. St. Louis, 1:05p.m.
Washington vs. N.Y. Mets, 1:10p.m.
L.A. Angels vs. Chi. White Sox, 4:05p.m.
Oakland vs. Cleveland, 4:05p.m.
Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, 4:05p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego, 4:10p.m.
Texas vs. Colorado, 4:10p.m.
Seattle vs. Milwaukee, 4:10p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore, 6:05p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Kansas City, 11:05p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Detroit 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota 7, Tampa Bay 1
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 3
San Francisco 9, Chicago White Sox 6
Seattle 3, Cleveland 2
Kansas City 5, Cincinnati 4
Texas 5, Oakland 3
L.A. Dodgers 6, Colorado 6
L.A. Angels 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Arizona 10, Milwaukee 3
Baltimore 8, Boston 5
Houston 10, Washington 8
N.Y. Mets 9, Miami 3
Atlanta vs. Toronto, ppd.

AUTO RACING

MANUFACTURERS STANDINGS

RK	MAKE	PTS	PB	W
1	Ford	182	—	3
2	Chevrolet	173	-9	2
3	Toyota	163	-19	0

DRIVER POINT STANDINGS

DRIVER	W	T5	T10	PTS
Chase Elliott	0	0	3	171
Joey Logano	0	1	3	164
Chase Briscoe	1	2	2	156
William Byron	1	2	2	150
Kurt Busch	0	2	3	148
Ryan Blaney	0	2	2	148
Aric Almirola	0	1	3	144
Martin Truex, Jr.	0	0	2	142
Alex Bowman	1	1	2	140
Ross Chastain	0	3	3	137
Kyle Busch	0	1	3	136
Kyle Larson	1	2	2	135
Daniel Suarez	0	2	3	127
Kevin Harvick	0	0	2	127
Tyler Reddick	0	1	2	126
Brad Keselowski	0	0	1	122
Austin Cindric	1	1	1	121
Bubba Wallace	0	1	1	120
Erik Jones	0	1	1	115
Chris Buescher	0	0	2	113
Austin Dillon	0	1	1	99
Justin Haley	0	0	0	94
Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.	0	0	1	91
Corey LaJoie	0	1	1	87
Ty Dillon	0	0	0	86
Denny Hamlin	0	0	0	79
Michael McDowell	0	0	1	78
Cole Custer	0	0	0	76
Todd Gilliland	0	0	0	72
Christopher Bell	0	0	1	69
B.J. McLeod	0	0	0	56

New Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson listens to a question during a news conference Friday at the team's training facility in Berea, Ohio. **RON SCHWANE/AP**

NFL BROWNS

Watson denies all allegations

By Tom Withers
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Deshaun Watson maintained his innocence and strongly denied committing any sexual misconduct despite allegations made by 22 women against the Browns' new starting quarterback.

Wearing a dark pinstriped suit and orange tie at his introductory news conference on Friday, Watson showed little emotion while saying he's done nothing illegal.

"I've never assaulted or disrespected or harassed a woman in my life," Watson said, flanked at the dais inside the team's headquarters by Browns general manager Andrew Berry and coach Kevin Stefanski. "That's not how I was raised. I've never done these things people are alleging."

It was the first time Watson has answered direct questions about the allegations, which first surfaced in March 2021. Watson didn't play last season for the Houston Texans as the cases mounted.

For nearly 40 minutes, Watson was asked about his character, the charges against him and how he'll attempt to rebuild his image. He understands there are people who will never believe him.

"I know that there's going to be a stain that probably is going to stick with me for awhile, but all I can do is keep moving forward and to continue to show the person that I am, the true character, the true person, the true human being I am," the 26-year-old said.

"I never done the things that these people are alleging and I'm going to continue to fight for my name and clear my name and like I've been doing, just cooperate with everything that comes with it."

Berry defended the team's controversial decision to trade for Watson, who has been accused by two dozen massage therapists of various unwanted sexual activity during private sessions. He has always claimed any sex was consensual.

"We as an organization know that this transaction has been very difficult for many people, particularly women in our community," Berry said. "We realize that it has triggered a range of emotions. And that, as well as the nature of the allegations, weighed heavily on all of us."

Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam expected there would be strong backlash from people opposed to the trade, and that it might trigger strong emotional reaction by anyone who has suffered sexual abuse.

"We put more time, more thought, more effort, talked to more people, did more research on this decision — by far — than any other decision we've made with the Cleveland Browns," Jimmy Haslam said on a Zoom call from outside the country.

Dee Haslam said she had conversations with the couple's daughters during the vetting process, and that ultimately she became agreeable with acquiring Watson after learning more about his character.

"This has been a really hard and difficult journey for us and our family," she said. "We had to work really hard to get comfortable with the decision. It took some time."

Watson dismissed needing counseling because he feels he's been falsely accused.

"I don't have a problem," he said. "I don't have an issue."

IN BRIEF

Angels' Ohtani set to pitch on opening day

News services

The full Shohei Ohtani experience will be on display when the Angels open the season.

The two-way star was picked to be the team's starting pitcher for the April 7 opener at Angel Stadium against the Astros. He's also expected to be in the lineup as the designated hitter. The reigning AL Most Valuable Player is coming off one of the most unique and productive seasons in the sport's history.

"I spoke to him, and he's very excited about it," Angels manager Joe Maddon told reporters on Friday. "Typically, he handles things with very limited emotion. Of course, he's happy about it. He's earned the right to do that. We're ready to rock and roll. It's exciting for everybody. It's the right thing to do, and I'm looking forward to a good result."

Ohtani was 9-2 on the mound last season with a 3.18 ERA, striking out 156 batters over 130 ⅓ innings. He also hit 46 homers, 26 doubles, an AL-best eight triples and stole 26 bases.

College basketball: UMass hired Frank Martin as its men's basketball coach on Friday. Martin, 56, arrives following his own dismissal from South Carolina last week after 10 seasons and just one NCAA appearance with the South Carolina.

Golf: Richard Bland is headed to the knockout stage of the Dell Technologies Match Play. The 49-year-old Bland faced 48-year-old Lee Westwood in an All-England match that featured the two oldest players in the field. Sixteen players remain for the knockout stage that begins Saturday morning.

NFL: The Bills moved closer to landing $200 million in NFL funding to help finance their bid to build a new stadium, a person with direct knowledge of the situation told The AP on Friday. The NFL's stadium and finance committee backed the Bills' request for what's called a G4 loan, by recommending the team's application be presented at the league's owner meetings for final approval.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Indiana, NCAA Sweet 16
2 p.m., ESPN

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY
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GREENSBORO REGIONAL SOUTH CAROLINA 69, NORTH CAROLINA 61

Boston, South Carolina top North Carolina in Sweet 16

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Aliyah Boston had 28 points and 22 rebounds, and top-seeded South Carolina moved on to the Elite Eight with a 69-61 victory over North Carolina on Friday night in the NCAA Tournament.

The Gamecocks (32-2) will take on either No. 3 seed Iowa State or 10th-seeded Creighton in the Greensboro Region for a spot in the Final Four on Sunday.

The Tar Heels cut South Carolina's 13-point fourth-quarter lead to five down the stretch. But each time, Boston got her team back on track with her 27th straight double-double. The All-American also scored her team's final 13 points.

Deja Kelly led North Carolina (25-7) with 23 points.

Carlie Littlefield made a 3-pointer from the right corner to draw North Carolina within 63-59, but Boston grabbed Zia Cooke's missed shot — her 11th offensive board — got fouled and made both free throws.

Anya Poole's layup made it 65-61 with 2:04 left for UNC. Boston made an inside bucket a minute later, then closed things out with two foul shots with 18.4 seconds left for the final margin.

South Carolina was off to its fifth Elite Eight in the past eight NCAA Tournaments.

It has struggled with its shooting, finishing less than 36% in their past three games. But it looked like the Gamecocks had found their touch has they hit four of their first five attempts for an 11-2 lead less than three minutes in.

Dorka Juhasz, who transferred from Ohio State to UConn, takes a shot against Indiana's Aleksa Gulbe on Jan. 10, 2019, in Columbus, Ohio. **AARON DOSTER/AP**

BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL NOTES

Familiarity between 2 players in UConn-Indiana showdown

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

BRIDGEPORT — Indiana senior forward Aleksa Gulbe knows UConn's Dorka Juhasz from playing in Europe before the two came to the U.S. to play in college.

Gulbe said Juhasz texted her after the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"She was like, 'I thought I was going to get away from you guys,' " Gulbe said Friday.

The third-seeded Hoosiers (24-8) will play No. 2 UConn (27-5) for the first time in Saturday's Bridgeport Region semifinal at Total Mortgage Arena at 2 p.m.

Gulbe, who averages 11.9 points and 6.4 rebounds for the third-seeded Hoosiers, is from Latvia and faced Juhasz, who is from Hungary. Then the two played against each other in the Big Ten Conference before Juhasz transferred from Ohio State to UConn after last season.

"When we played Hungary, she was always there," Gulbe said. "So we've played each other plenty of times.

"We're not very, very close but just because we are from overseas, it kind of connects us."

Mutual respect

Indiana coach Teri Moren had nothing but praise for the Huskies Friday.

"We have a tremendous amount of respect for Geno [Auriemma] and Chris [Dailey] and his staff and his players," Moren said. "They've been the bar in women's basketball for some time. If you're not having to compete against them, you really enjoy watching them play because they play what I think is pretty basketball. Everybody likes to watch pretty basketball with their cutting and their ability to pass it and so forth."

Auriemma talked about how Indiana, which advanced to the regional final last season before losing to Arizona, didn't get as much respect as it should.

NCAA experience

Notre Dame coach Niele Ivey, whose team will face North Carolina State Saturday at 11:30 a.m., has some experience in the NCAA Tournament despite this being her first trip as a head coach. She has imparted that wisdom to her young team.

Ivey was the point guard for the Irish team who won the program's first NCAA championship in 2001 and was an assistant under former coach Muffet McGraw for seven of the team's Final Four appearances. Last year in her first season as head coach, her team went 10-10 and did not make it to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 25 years.

"We have a very seasoned coaching staff, Coquese Washington, Carol Owens, Michaela Mabrey," Ivey said. "We lean on these experiences. We have lots of meetings because we do have a young group. Coming into last week, we had to talk to them about what the day looks like, the media, practice, not touching the basketballs before the clock starts. We had to go back to the basics."

Philly-bound

Ivey said she was going to drive to Philadelphia Friday night to see her son Jaden, a sophomore guard, play for Purdue against St. Peter's in the NCAA Tournament regional semifinals. "I'm leaving after practice and driving there," she said. "My athletic director prepared a car for me to get me there and back, so I'll be there tonight. I'm excited to be there in person. I think it's only a 2½ hour drive." ... On her team's 108-64 win over Oklahoma in the second round: "I knew we were capable of having an offensive game like that, but I was not expecting that outburst from the first quarter [Notre Dame led 35-12]. It was our best quarter of the season. They shot the ball really well in practice."

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UConn

from Page 1

Curt Miller. Under Moren, the Hoosiers have won 20 or more games six years in a row and broke through to the Elite Eight last March. They will be a handful for a UConn team that had to scrap to get past UCF in the second round.

"This season has really taught us that we have to grind out games and that things aren't just going to be handed to us just because we're UConn," Huskies senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa said. "Because in previous years we kind of had this expectation where we come in, roll in and win, and this year has been the complete opposite."

The Huskies, beset with injuries, lost five games before getting most of their injured players back and starting the current 12-game winning streak. In the second round of the tournament, UConn faced a physical and mental stress test before beating UCF, 52-47.

"Emotionally it was draining," Auriemma said. "Physically it was grueling and draining. We put ourselves in a difficult situation and we figured out a way to win that game, making 14 free field goals. ... Two months ago we would have lost that game, probably by double digits. So I think we have a little more resolve than we had two months ago."

Indiana lost the Big Ten final to Iowa and got the No. 3 seed in the Regional, then beat Charlotte and, in a one-point game, Princeton in the first two rounds in Bloomington. UConn's Dorka Juhász, who transferred from Ohio State, played the Hoosiers four times between 2018-20, averaging 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"They're a very aggressive team," Juhász said. "And I think they have a lot of good pieces on the guard spots, as well as the post. I think they're a pretty complete team."

UConn, making its 28th straight appearance in the Sweet 16, is going for its 15th consecutive trip to the Elite Eight and 14th to the Final Four.

Caroline's time?

Freshman Caroline Ducharme, who played a big role for UConn in midseason, took a number of hits in late-season games and has played sparingly in the postseason, only four minutes vs. UCF.

"Caroline got hit pretty hard three games in a row," Auriemma said. "She missed some time and it has taken her a little bit of time to get back in the swing of things. ... But Caroline will have a big role [Saturday] and she's got to do what she does."

Here's what you need to know about the matchup:

The basics

NCAA Sweet 16
Site: Total Mortgage Arena, Bridgeport.
Time: 2 p.m.
Series: First meeting
TV: ESPN (Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca Lobo, Andraya Carter, Holly Rowe)
Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

No. 3 Indiana (24-8) probable starters, sixth player

Grace Berger G, 6-0. Sr.; Nicole Hillary-Cardano G, 5-6, GS; Mackenzie Holmes F, 6-3, Jr.; Ali Patberg G, 5-11, GS; Aleksa Gulbe F, 6-3, Sr.; Chloe Moore-McNeil G, 5-11, So.

No. 2 UConn (27-5) probable starters, sixth player

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.; Paige Bueckers, G, 5-11, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The 52 points UConn scored last game was the program's lowest total ever in an NCAA Tournament win. That was a function of UCF's pressure, something few, if any teams can replicate. Auriemma stuck with Bueckers, Fudd and Williams on the floor together, giving the Huskies a lot of perimeter firepower.
UConn's defense: On defense, the Huskies have been uniformly effective across their 12-game winning streak. UConn's pressure, and the depth that makes it possible, should again be a factor here.
Indiana offense: Berger (16.3) and Holmes (15.4) are the leading scorers. The Hoosiers average 71.7 points and 14.3 assists per game, so moving the ball is the key for them. Indiana shoots 45.4% from the floor, 33.0 on threes.
Indiana's defense: Opponents shoot 39.9%, 29.5 on threes, averaging 61.3 points. The Hoosiers turn teams over 14.9 time a game.
UConn keys: UConn will need to shake off any lingering affects, mental and physical, from the grueling game against UCF on Monday.
Players to watch: Berger will be tough to contain and Mühl could get the defensive assignment.
About Indiana's coach: Moren, 52, an Indiana native, played at Purdue, as an assistant coach for 18 years before landing the top job at Indiana State in 2010. She is 371-218 as a head coach.
Indiana mascot: Hoosier is, of course, the name for Indianans, but the school does not have an official mascot, but has tried several throughout its history.
Famous alumni: Announcers Dick Enberg and Joe Buck; 1940 presidential nominee Wendell Willkie; MLB stars Kyle Schwarber, Ted Kluszewski; Stanford women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer; 1960s Packers legend Bob Skoronski, a Connecticut native; Basketball Hall of Famers Walt Bellamy, Isaiah Thomas.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

NC State

from Page 1

On March 14, Moore talked about potentially going to Connecticut on the Sports Freaks radio show based in Asheville, North Carolina, and joked about heading to the "Geno Invitational."

"We can't look that far ahead," he told the hosts. "We've got two games here at home we've got to get through. There's no guarantees there. You still got to play somebody else in Bridgeport before you get to Connecticut.

"I thought we were going to the NCAAs, turns out we're going to the Geno Invitational. But you know, there's a lot of people in the ACC complaining about the ACC tournament being in Greensboro and us having 8,000 people there wearing red. But at least we earned the No. 1 seed. We did everything we could have, pretty much. We lost to South Carolina, you could say that kept us from being in Greensboro, I guess. To have the No. 2 NET in the country and do what we did in the ACC, you could probably make the argument we could have gotten a little different fate there, but we can't worry about it."

The NCAA Selection Committee chairwoman, Nina King, Duke's athletic director, said on Selection Sunday that UConn had "all the pieces, all of their players playing. Relative to Bridgeport, we place the teams on the seed lines on an S-curve. When we place them in the regionals we try and stay true to the S-curve. ... It's how it fell this year and that's why Connecticut is in Bridgeport."

Now, of course, it is what it is and NC State must get past Notre Dame, which handed the Wolfpack its last loss on Feb. 1, 69-66. The Irish (24-8) are peaking, after a 108-64 second-round win over Oklahoma on the Sooners' home court in Norman Monday.

"We better guard them better than Oklahoma did," Moore said. "They've got a lot of weapons and when they're all hitting — let's face, it, that's why you play these games.

"Oklahoma ran into a juggernaut. We've got to try to take away some of their strengths and slow them down a little bit and hope we're playing well."

The Wolfpack counters with an experienced group of seniors, including guards Kai Crutchfield and Raina Perez and forward Kayla Jones, all back for a fifth year after losing 73-70 in the regional semifinal to Indiana last year, and senior center Elissa Cunane, who leads the team in scoring (13.5) and rebounding (7.5).

Moore said his team's senior leadership "shows up in confidence, not panicking, even if you got off to a slow start or whatever. Believing.

"Just playing together and being on this stage for four and sometimes five years, I think hopefully gives you a certain level of confidence."

Junior wing Jakia Brown-Turner said her team is ready for Notre Dame.

"We know they're in our conference and this is one of the main games that we were really looking forward to getting revenge back," she said. "We know we're going to have to play hard."

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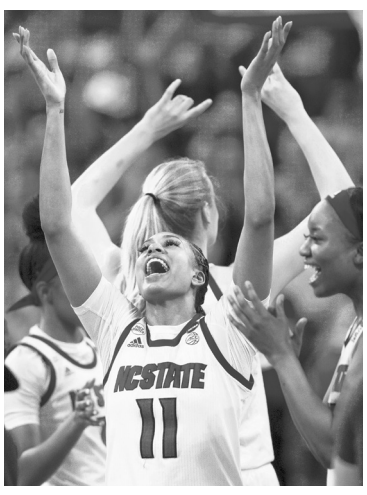

North Carolina State's Jakia Brown-Turner celebrates after a victory over Kansas State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Monday in Raleigh, North Carolina. **BEN MCKEOWN/AP**

Safety Tip of the Day

When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.

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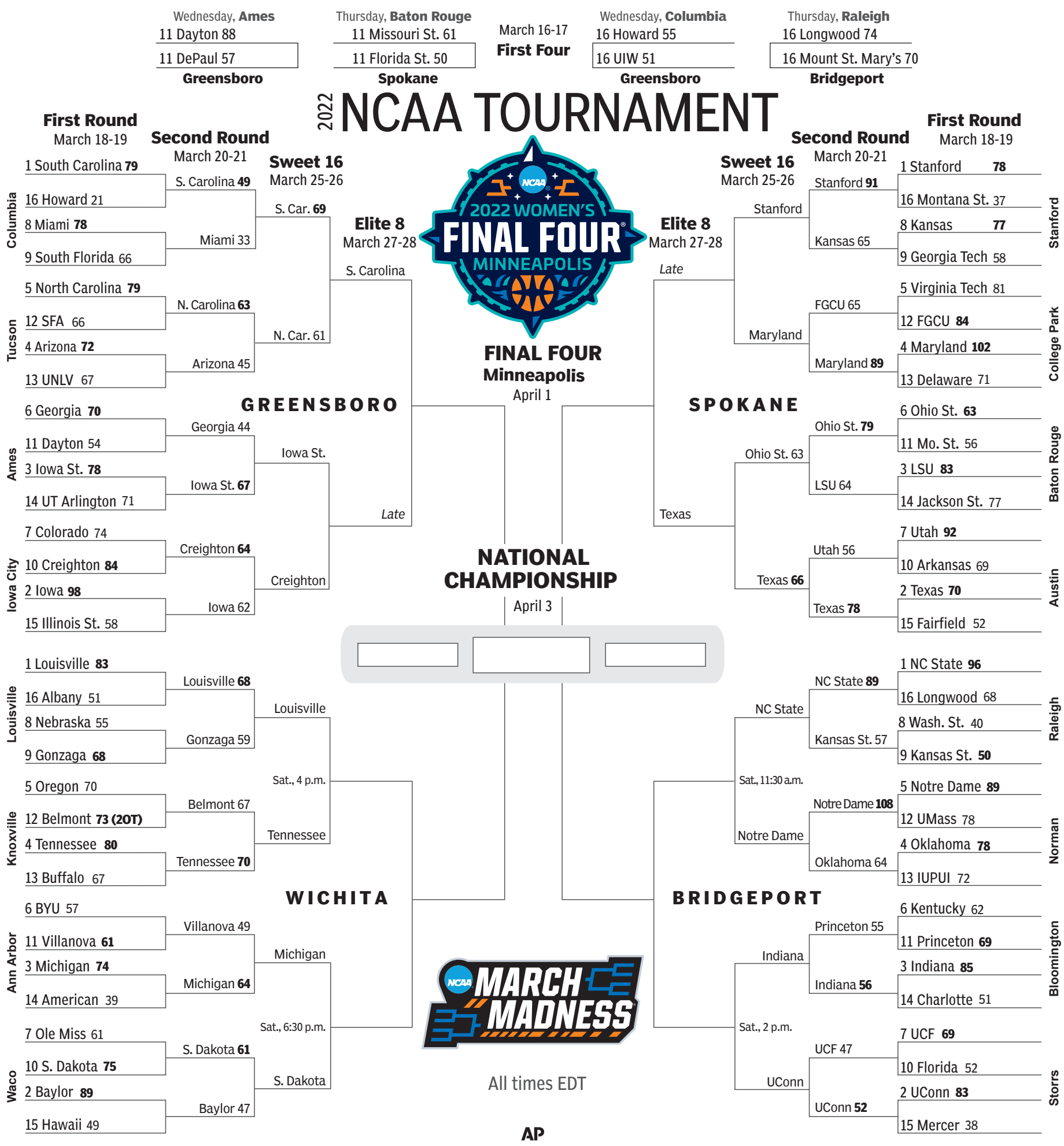
SPORTS



St. Peter's

from Page 1

about his team's doubters, a group whose numbers are dwindling.

The Boilermakers (29-8), 12 ½-point favorites according to FanDuel Sportsbook, never led by more than six.

Almost 30 years to the day that Duke's Christian Laettner's overtime buzzer-beater stunned Kentucky to win a regional final at the since-razed Spectrum, Purdue and Saint Peter's pulled off their own Philly classic.

Saint Peter's fans made the 93-mile ride south to help pack the arena and give the Peacocks more of an edge than they usually have at their bandbox known as Run Baby Run Arena. Consider, just 434 fans were listed as the total attendance for Saint Peter's home opener this season against LIU.

More than that turned out to give the team a Sweet 16 sendoff from campus this week.

Even more basketball fans — yes, even those whose brackets the Peacocks help bust — were suddenly rooting for the tiny commuter college in Jersey City, New Jersey, just across the Hudson River from Lower Manhattan.

Jaden Ivey buried an NBA-distance 3 with 8 seconds left that pulled Purdue within 65-64 and momentarily shushed the crowd.

No worries. Doug Edert, whose wispy mustache and goofy persona earned him a fast-food chicken endorsement deal, sank two free throws to seal the win.

The Peacocks hopped the press table and saluted fans in the first few rows. They mobbed each other and hugged and starting waving down fans and friends before they gathered at the basket to celebrate — one more time — the biggest win in program history.

The Peacocks dropped and made snowmen on the court and soon there was a huge celebration of fans jamming the concourse chanting "S-P-U! S-P-U!"

Meanwhile, a Final Four berth remains elusive for Boilermakers coach Matt Painter and his perennial Big Ten contender.

Banks led the Peacocks with 14 points, Clarence Rupert scored 11 and Edert had 10. Trevion Williams had 16 points and eight rebounds for Purdue.

Before the game, Saint Peter's players lay on their backs at half-court as they did their stretching routine, most looking up at the big screen that replayed highlights from last weekend's wins that got the team to Philadelphia.

By now, the Peacocks' run is etched as the story of the tournament. Saint Peter's started with a stunner when it knocked off No. 2 seed Kentucky and coach John Calipari. It then advanced to the Sweet 16 with a win over seventh-seeded Murray State.

The Peacocks lived by Holloway's mantra: "I got guys from New Jersey and New York City. You think we're scared of anything?"

They certainly weren't scared of the Boilermakers.

Purdue used its massive size advantage and dumped the ball inside to 7-foot-4 Zach Edey for easy dunks and Sasha Stefanovic hit three 3s to offset nine turnovers.

When Holloway talked about his players as New York and New Jersey tough, he should have thrown Philly into the mix. Rupert grew up in Philly and heard the loudest ovation of all the Peacocks during lineup introductions. He scored all of his points in the first half. Purdue took a 33-29 lead into the break.

Saint Peter's Doug Edert, right, tries to get past Purdue's Mason Gillis during the first half of a Sweet 16 round game of the NCAA Tournament on Friday in Philadelphia. **MATT ROURKE/AP**

MIDWEST REGION KANSAS 66, PROVIDENCE 61

Martin scores 23 as top-seeded Jayhawks get past Friars

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Remy Martin scored a season-high 23 points and Kansas did its part as the only No. 1 seed left in the NCAA Tournament, holding Providence to 17 first-half points and hanging on for a 66-61 victory on Friday night to reach the Elite Eight.

The Jayhawks (31-6) made it farther than fellow No. 1 seeds Gonzaga and Arizona, both ousted in the Sweet 16, and Baylor, whose title defense ended in the second round. They will face either Miami or Iowa State in the Midwest Region final on Sunday.

Jalen Wilson added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Jayhawks, who are back in a regional final for the first time since 2018, when they reached their 15th Final Four. Coach Bill Self is seeking his fourth trip there since he arrived in 2003.

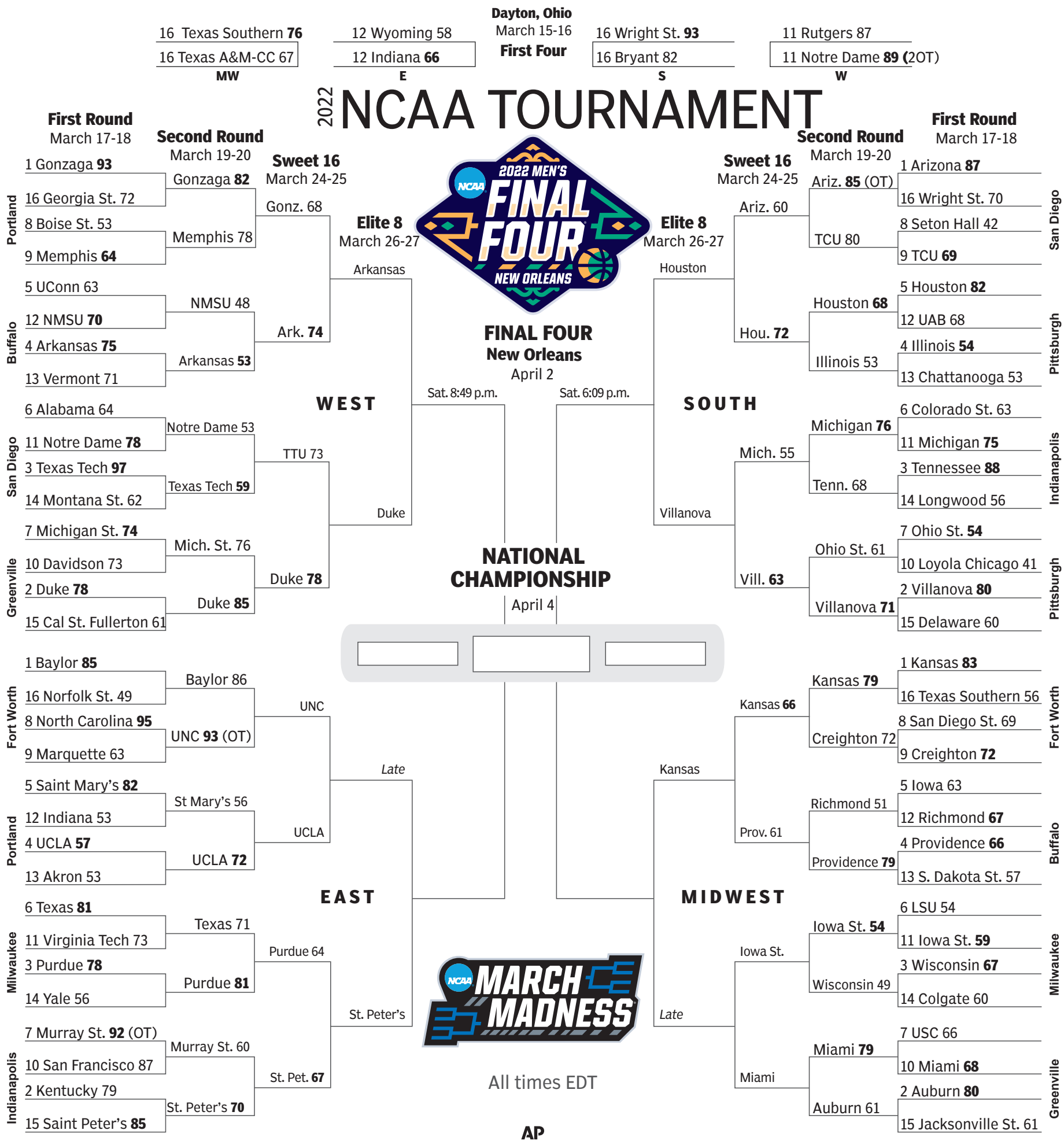
Kansas also moved ahead of Kentucky for most wins in Division I history with 2,354.

The Jayhawks led by 13 points early in the second half, let it slip away, and then regrouped. Fourth-seeded Providence (27-6) took a short-lived one-point lead, but Kansas responded by scoring seven straight.

Big 12 Player of the Year Ochai Agbaji scored a season-low five points. But with Martin and Wilson leading the way, the Jayhawks won their eighth straight since a 74-64 loss at TCU on March 1.

Al Durham led Providence with 21 points. But the Friars shot 33.8% and made 4 of 23 3-pointers as their best run since reaching the regional finals in 1997 under Pete Gillen came to an end.

NCAA TOURNAMENT



COMMENTARY

Coach K says 'It's not the coaching.' Ah, but it is.

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski looks on during the first half against Texas Tech in a Sweet 16 game of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday in San Francisco. **EZRA SHAW/GETTY**

Duke keeps winning games in the NCAA Tournament and Mike Krzyzewski keeps telling anyone who will listen, "It's not the coaching."

There's some evidence to suggest he's right.

For one thing, Duke relies almost entirely on freshmen and sophomores, which means his core group of players have only had so much time to soak up Coach K's decades of gathered wisdom. For another, Krzyzewski switched to a zone defense in the second half of Thursday night's Sweet 16 game against a rugged Texas Tech team, but when the Blue Devils needed big stops down the stretch his players lobbied — successfully — to go back to man-to-man.

Finally, and most important, perhaps, those same kids who are supposed to be feeling the pressure of his impending retirement shot 71% from the floor after halftime, hitting eight straight field goals to end the game. There's no coaching manual that covers that.

But don't be fooled.

On the same night two No. 1 seeds were toppled, the reason Krzyzewski won the 100th NCAA Tournament game of his career and remains squarely on track toward a sixth national championship is ... coaching. No one does it better.

He's been recruiting kids who ooze with NBA-caliber talent for four decades now — which is a specialty all its own — and then teaching them the difference between showing up and showing off when the game is on the line. Duke had played zone defense roughly 5% of the time during the regular season, which made it a risky gambit when Coach K threw the switch against the Red Raiders. Then he listened to his players when they pleaded to switch back, which is even riskier, and more to the point, it proved that at age 75, the old Blue Devil is still willing to learn new tricks.

"Whenever they can own something, they're going to do it better than if we just run it," Krzyzewski said afterward. "When they said that, I felt they're going to own it. They'll make it work, and that's probably more important than strategy during that time. So that's the way I looked at it."

Three key defensive stops that followed and two late baskets by Jeremy Roach moved Krzyzewski within one win of his record-setting 13th trip to the Final Four with a 78-73 victory. Paolo Banchero led second-seeded Duke with 22 points, Mark Williams scored 16 and Roach, handed his starting spot back just ahead of the tournament, added 15.

Bryson Williams led No. 3 seed Texas Tech with 21.

Duke will play Arkansas on Saturday with a trip to the Final Four on the line. That's after the fourth-seeded Razorbacks, who bear some resemblance to the "40 Minutes of Hell" Arkansas teams that tore up the tournament in the mid-1990s, tore up top overall seed Gonzaga en route to a 74-68 win.

Much like those teams, coach Eric Musselman has loaded up tenacious defenders and shooters with short memories — notably JD Notae, who missed 20 shots and still scored 21 points — and has the Razorbacks convinced it's them against the world.

"We've been disrespected the whole year, so it's just another thing for us," Jaylin Williams said. "We saw everything they were saying, we felt like they were dancing before the game. ...

"We had a chip on our shoulder," he added a moment later. "Every game we do."

Whatever the Zags had on their shoulders felt like a 40-pound weight. Entering as the top-scoring team in the nation (87.8 points per game), Gonzaga shot 37.5% and went 5 of 21 from 3-point range. NBA prospect Chet Holmgren, the Zags' skinny freshman center, was hounded all night and spared himself a few minutes of hell by fouling out with 3:29 left.

Speaking of discomfort, fifth-seeded Houston did a pretty good job of exploiting top seed Arizona's lack of experience. The Wildcats missed seven of their first eight shots as Houston sprinted to a 14-4 advantage and led the rest of the way, riding 21 points from Jamal Shead and 19 from Kyler Edwards to a 72-60 win.

"I knew we were going to make them uncomfortable, that's what we do," Cougars coach Kelvin Sampson said. "Our team, we're a tough bunch. ... They're not afraid of anybody."

Houston lost four starters from last season and then lost Marcus Sasser, the lone returner and leading scorer who broke his left foot before Christmas. And then Taze Moore, one of the transfers Sampson relied on, got hit with his third personal foul against Arizona with 9:22 left and wound up playing only 17 minutes overall.

"Tonight, you know, he was in the witness protection program," Sampson said. "I couldn't find him. Nowhere. We put him in there, we had to take him right back out."

That won't do against second-seeded Villanova, where coach Jay Wright has been quietly fashioning a mini-dynasty of his own. The Wildcats don't play the "no-respect" card because they win too much — two national championships since 2016 — and they put together another workmanlike performance to send No. 11 seed Michigan packing with a 63-55 victory.

Jermaine Samuels, a freshman during that last title run in 2018 — capped off against Michigan, no less — led Villanova with 22 points, and drew the unenviable assignment of battling 7-foot-1 Hunter Dickinson on both ends of the floor. Dickinson led Michigan with 15 points and 15 rebounds, but none of them came easy.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Houston (32-5) vs. Villanova (29-7)

Where, when, TV: San Antonio, 6:09 p.m. EDT, TBS

Bottom line: The Wildcats were seventh in the Big East with 12 assists per game, led by Collin Gillespie averaging 3.3. The Cougars were the AAC leader with 35.4 rebounds per game, led by Josh Carlton averaging 6.3.

Top performers: Jermaine Samuels is averaging 11 points and 6.4 rebounds for the Wildcats. Justin Moore is averaging 9.4 points over the last 10 games for Villanova. Kyler Edwards is averaging 14.1 points, six rebounds and 3.2 assists for the Cougars. Fabian White Jr. is averaging 10.2 points over the last 10 games for Houston.

Last 10 games: Wildcats: 9-1, averaging 69.6 points, 31.7 rebounds, 11.4 assists, 5.7 steals and 2.1 blocks per game while shooting 42.9% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 57.6 points per game. Cougars: 9-1, averaging 73.7 points, 34.1 rebounds, 14.3 assists, 6.7 steals and 4.8 blocks per game while shooting 46.9% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 59.6 points.

Arkansas (28-8) vs. Duke (31-6)

Where, when, TV: San Francisco; 8:49 p.m. EDT, TBS

Bottom line: The Blue Devils average 16.7 assists per game to lead the ACC, paced by Wendell Moore with 4.5. The Razorbacks were fourth in the SEC with 35.2 rebounds per game, led by Jaylin Williams averaging 9.8.

Top performers: Paolo Banchero is scoring 17.2 points per game with 7.8 rebounds and 3.2 assists for the Blue Devils. Mark Williams is averaging 8.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and 1.9 blocks over the last 10 games for Duke. JD Notae is averaging 18.5 points, 3.7 assists and 2.3 steals for the Razorbacks. Stanley Umude is averaging 8.7 points over the last 10 games for Arkansas.

Last 10 games: Blue Devils: 8-2, averaging 79.0 points, 29.8 rebounds, 15 assists, five steals and 7.2 blocks per game while shooting 53.2% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 71.2 points per game. Razorbacks: 8-2, averaging 67 points, 33.9 rebounds, 11.8 assists, 6.6 steals and 3.5 blocks per game while shooting 38.0% from the field. Their opponents have averaged 64.3 points.

Number to know

13: If Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski gets his Blue Devils past Arkansas today, he will advance to his 13th Final Four. The legendary coach, who is in his last season, has won five national titles.

— Associated Press

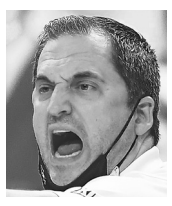
NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Papadakis, Cizeron shatter record

Olympic ice dance champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, pictured, shattered their own rhythm dance world record on Friday to take the lead over two American teams at the world championships in Montpellier, France.. With the backing of their home crowd, Papadakis and Cizeron scored 92.73 points to their program set to music by John Legend to beat their score from the Beijing Games by nearly two points. It also left Papadakis and Cizeron more than three points ahead of Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue heading into Saturday's free dance. "I think it was better than at the Games. We were a little bit more relaxed, so I think it appeared in our skating." said Cizeron, who along with Papadakis is a four-time world champ. "I think we're just getting better and better, which is good." It's going to be difficult to get too much better. "There was a little bit of pressure that we did have because of the audience," Papadakis said, "but at the same time, it was wonderful and was lifting us, too. It was very different, but definitely easier (than in Beijing)."

Murray State brings back Prohm



Steve Prohm has returned to Murray State for a second stint as men's basketball coach, taking over the program as the Racers prepare to join the Missouri Valley Conference in July. The coach said in a release Friday he was "excited and grateful" for the chance to return to Murray State and noted its continued success after he left. "Now is the time to shift our focus forward as we begin a new chapter of Murray State basketball entering the Missouri Valley Conference," he added. Prohm will be formally introduced on Monday. He replaces Matt McMahon, his former assistant who guided MSU (31-3) to the second round of the NCAA Tournament as the No. 7 seed before leaving earlier this week for LSU. Prohm had a 104-29 record during his first tenure with the Racers from 2011-15 and won two Ohio Valley Conference regular season titles along with a first-round NCAA game in 2012. He spent six years as a Murrary State assistant before taking over for Billy Kennedy. Prohm left in 2015 for Iowa State, going 97-95 in six seasons with Big 12 Conference Tournament titles and three NCAA appearances.

F1 races on despite nearby fire

Despite a raging fire at a nearby oil depot following an attack, the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix maintained business as usual on Friday night. The Formula One race on Sunday was also expected to go ahead. After Yemen's Houthis rebels acknowledged they launched attacks on the kingdom, Saudi Arabia state TV said there was a "hostile operation" that targeted the Jiddah oil depot, which erupted in flames during the first practice about 11 kilometers (seven miles) from the Jeddah Corniche Circuit. Despite this, the second practice was delayed by just 15 minutes following a meeting between drivers, team principals, F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali, and Mohammed Ben Sulayem, president of motorsport governing body FIA. Another meeting was expected later Friday between Domenicali and team principals. Race promoter Saudi Motorsport Company said nothing will change with regards to the third practice and qualifying scheduled on Saturday and the race on Sunday. "We are aware of the attack on the Aramco distribution station in Jeddah earlier this afternoon and remain in direct contact with the Saudi authorities," the SMC said in a statement. "The race weekend schedule will continue as planned." *—AP*

Giovanni Reyna, left, dribbles the ball chased by Mexico's Gerardo Arteaga during a World Cup qualifying match on Thursday. **EDUARDO VERDUGO/AP**

SOCCER

Promise and frustration

Dazzling run by Reyna embodies the US team

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — All at once, Gio Reyna showed the promise of the U.S. national team's future and the frustration of its present.

Just back from a hamstring injury that sidelined him for more than half a season, the young American midfielder entered Thursday night's World Cup qualifier in the 60th minute. In the match's most memorable moment, the 19-year-old ran onto a ball poked loose by Walker Zimmerman outside the U.S. penalty area and sprinted half the length of the field on a dazzling run of 14 touches.

Reyna evaded six challenges before Johan Vasquez managed to knock the ball away about 30 yards from Mexico's net, a bolt that evoked memories of Diego Maradona's dash to a goal against England in a World Cup quarterfinal on the very same Estadio Azteca pitch.

"Mexico was the host of the '86 World Cup, where Maradona scored his wonderful goal, and I had visions of that while Gio was dribbling," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said after the 0-0 draw. "Unfortunately he didn't finish it off."

Neither did the U.S., which would clinch a return to the World Cup with a game to spare by beating Panama on Sunday at Orlando, Florida — if Costa Rica fails to win at El Salvador.

A son of former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna and women's national team midfielder Danielle Egan, Gio made just his 10th international appearance, his first since straining his right hamstring in the opening qualifier at El Salvador on Sept. 2.

Gio blushed when told of Berhalter's comparison.

"I don't know about that, but, yeah, it was a nice run," Reyna said. "In the end, it didn't really turn out to anything."

His father played one game in Azteca's thin air, a 2-1 loss in a 2005 qualifier. Claudio also had returned from a long-term leg injury, one that had limited him to three matches with Manchester City over the previous six months.

Gio showed explosive speed, volleying Kellyn Acosta's looping pass in the 72nd minute to Jordan Pefok, who sent an open left-foot shot wide from 6 yards in one of the best American chances of the night.

Reyna's run came in the 77th minute. He romped to his right and evaded a sliding Hector Herrera, deked left to slalom past Vasquez and sprinted into the center circle to spin around Herrera again. Reyna outran Gerardo Arteaga. dribbled past Raul Jimenez and cut left and then right to blow past Jorge Sanchez's slide tackle. Only then was Vasquez able to knock the ball away.

Reyna stretched his arms out wide and slapped them together as Christian Pulisic whacked the bouncing ball into the waiting arms of goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Not quite the same as when Maradona evaded Peter Beardsley, Peter Reid, Terry Butcher (twice), Terry Fenwick and goalkeeper Peter Shilton, but close enough.

"You could see that he's stronger. He looked quick, and he's getting fit," Berhalter said. "When he gets 100% fit, he's going to really help this team for longer stretches."

In his third season with Germany's Borussia Dortmund, Reyna did not return from the hamstring injury until Feb. 6. Two weeks later in his third match back, he left the field in tears when he felt pain in a leg and collapsed, thinking he would be sidelined for another long stretch. But he was back as a second-half sub on March 13, played a full 90 minutes last Sunday and reported to U.S. camp.

"I guess the main thing was probably just fitness," he said. "All the stuff on the field is kind of just I've been doing it my whole life."

Berhalter often points out how young the U.S. is at it tries to rebound from failing to reach the 2018 World Cup. The starting lineup averaged 24 years, 136 days, relative geezers to the record youth of 22 years, 61 days that began the Oct. 13 victory over Costa Rica.

"It's an exciting group of players," Berhalter said, "and you think about the prospect of these guys getting even better is really exciting."

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT SWEET 16

Louisville, Lady Vols to battle for a spot in the Elite Eight

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The women's basketball program that Jeff Walz has built at Louisville over the past 15 years resembles in so many ways the juggernaut Pat Summitt built at Tennessee, with one important exception: winning a national championship.

The Lady Vols piled up eight of them. The Cardinals are 0 for 2 in title games.

The programs are set to meet in Saturday night's NCAA Tournament regional semifinals, where a resurgent bunch of Lady Vols led by Kellie Harper — one of Summitt's brightest stars — will be trying to return to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2016 and a plucky bunch of Cardinals will be trying to make it there for the fourth consecutive tournament.

"Expectations are good. I've learned if there's not expectations for your ballclub, you don't normally have a job very long," said Walz, who has led the Cardinals to the Final Four three times, with the last trip coming in 2018

"But we're in a situation where I still think people wonder how we keep winning," Walz continued. "How do we keep doing it? How do we keep getting ourselves to a point where we can get a 1-seed, or we're competing in the Sweet 16 or the Elite Eight? Our players respond to that. They respond to the pressure."

They haven't been under too much pressure yet in the Wichita Region, where No. 3 seed Michigan faces No. 10 seed South Dakota in the other semifinal Saturday. The top-seeded Cardinals (27-4) blew out Albany before cruising past Creighton in the second round, setting up a date with the fourth-seeded Lady Vols at INTRUST Bank Arena.

"We're playing a program that's obviously got a ton of tradition," Walz said.

For its part, Tennessee (25-8) is trying to return to its rightful place atop the women's college basketball pecking order. The Lady Vols went to 18 Final Fours under Summitt (not including the old AIAW days), but have not been to a national semifinal since 2008 when they won her eighth and final national championship.

The program fell into a period of mediocrity under Holly Warlick, leading to her firing in March 2019 and Harper's return to Knoxville. COVID-19 short-circuited the 2020 postseason and the Lady Vols didn't make it past the second round last season, but Harper has them once again thinking about playing on the game's biggest stage.

"It's more of just embracing the opportunity that we have, making it to the Sweet 16," Lady Vols star Tamari Key said. "I know we are really excited for this opportunity — every opportunity — we get to play another basketball game."

Underdog Coyotes

The Wolverines (24-6) breezed through American and No. 11 seed Villanova to reach the semifinals and a most unexpected opponent: South Dakota. The Coyotes (29-5) had never made it through the first round before knocking off Mississippi last week, then they did one better by dumping perennial powerhouse Baylor in the second round.

Speaking of newcomers ...

While the Coyotes may be the loveable underdogs, the Wolverines haven't had a whole lot more NCAA Tournament success. They lost to Baylor in overtime in last year's NCAA Tournament in their only other Sweet 16 trip.

"I think we've been the underdog. That started last year when we made our tournament run," Michigan guard Leigha Brown said. I think that's when we're the most successful. I think we're the best when we're playing with a chip on our shoulder."

Tennessee players celebrate after advancing to the Sweet 16 on Monday. **MARK HUMPHREY/AP**

MOTORING
COURANT.COM/CLASSIFIED/AUTOMOTIVE

Gas prices are seen March 7 in front of a billboard featuring comedian John Oliver of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" in Los Angeles. **JAE C. HONG/AP**

HOW TO SPEND LESS ON GAS

These tips from several sources will help increase your mileage

By Jon Healey
Los Angeles Times

Outrageously high gas prices are killing your wallet. But they could lead to a better life for the car or truck you've been driving into the ground.

That's because caring more for your ride can reduce your gasoline costs, experts say. Catch up on all the maintenance you've put off. Drive less aggressively. Leave the car in the driveway and go for a walk instead of driving a mile to the store.

There's a long list of simple things you can do to squeeze a few extra miles out of each gallon of gas. Yes, some of them will cost you more than your next fill-up. And yes, some of them will consume more of your time.

Here are tips offered by engine mechanics, AAA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other experts on fuel economy.

Maintenance issues

■ Stick to the schedule. You know how much harder it is to run a couple of miles after you've been idle for a few months than when you've stayed in shape? The same is true for your car.

■ According to the EPA, "fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4%, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done."

"The biggest thing is that people don't follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule," said Mia Bevacqua, chief mechanic and technical writer at CarParts.com. "All that maintenance plays a role" in keeping your car running well, she said. You can find your car's maintenance schedule in the booklets that came with your car or on the manufacturer's website.

■ Don't put off repairs. Bevacqua said another bad habit among vehicle owners is that they ignore problems. "They've got the Check Engine light on and look away."

Ignorance isn't bliss when it comes to fuel economy. "Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by *as much as 40%*," the EPA warned.

■ Use the right motor oil. Lower-weight oils (that is, the ones with lower numbers) do a little better in mileage tests, so don't use 10W-40 when your manufacturer recommends 10W-20. Regardless, stick with the manufacturer's recommendation.

■ Use the right grade of fuel. There's no clear advantage to using a higher grade of fuel than called for by your vehicle's manufacturer. At the same time, Edmunds.com says you can save money by using a lower grade than your manufacturer recommends — as long as it's just a recommendation, not a requirement.

■ Be kind to your older vehicle's carburetor. A dirty air filter can lead to poorer performance by older model vehicles without fuel injection. Take a look at the filter — cleaning it is an easy DIY task.

Driving style

■ Slow and steady wins the race. Years ago in my high school driver's ed class, I watched a filmstrip of two cars heading across town, one driven like a maniac, the other like a Zen master. The maniac reached the destination first, but the difference was only a few minutes. The bottom line was that you won't save much time by racing from light to light. Worse, you'll waste a lot of gas. The best strategy, AAA says, is to find a pace in sync with the lights so you can keep rolling instead of braking.

■ Don't speed. You're not going to like this, but driving faster than 55 to 65 mph on the highway is bad for your mileage, according to England's Energy Saving Trust. And according to Consumer Reports' tests, 55 is significantly better than 65, if you don't mind being passed on all sides.

■ Don't leave the car idling. Do you let your car warm up a bit before driving? Cut that out. "To save fuel," AAA advises, "start the engine and then drive the car normally to warm the engine to operating temperature more rapidly." And when you see a long drive-through line at your favorite take-out spot, park the car and go inside to order. Bevacqua said idling can burn up to a quarter of a gallon per hour.

■ Monitor your mpg. Many newer cars display your fuel efficiency as you drive. And if your car can't do that, Bevacqua said, you can buy an mpg meter that you can mount on your dashboard (if your car is no older than the 1996 model year). According to a study financed by the U.S. Department of Energy, drivers who actively monitored their mpg for the sake of improving their mileage boosted their fuel economy by about 10%.

■ Get into a higher gear. If you're one of the lucky few driving a stick shift these days, bear in mind that higher revolutions per minute can be less fuel efficient. Upshift with the tachometer at 2,000 to 2,500 rpm, not 3,000, Toyota advises.

Wind and road resistance

■ Pump up the (air) volume. Check your tires every month to make sure they stay at the pressure recommended by the vehicle's manufacturer, which is listed on the jamb on the driver's door. Severely underinflated tires can reduce your mileage by about 3%, Bevacqua said.

■ Stop messing with the aerodynamics. Increasingly, manufacturers are designing vehicles to reduce the air resistance and improve mpg. But you can undo all those efforts by putting a couple of bikes or a big cargo box on your roof rack.

■ Shed the weight. Got a bunch of collapsible chairs, sports gear, camping equipment and the like stashed in your car? You're wasting gas. According to AAA, each 100 pounds of stuff can reduce your mpg by up to 1%.

■ Cover that truck bed. There's conflicting evidence on this, but most sources agree that a light cover can help reduce drag without adding too much weight. The potential improvement in fuel economy is about 2%.

■ Lose the fluttering displays. If you're flying a flag or extending any other object from your car, you're creating drag.

■ Fix your front bumper. On newer vehicles, the front is designed to improve the flow of air around it as you drive, particularly when on the highway. If your bumper is dangling or badly damaged, you'll lose that advantage.

Vehicle usage

■ Take fewer trips. Nothing cuts your gasoline costs like leaving your car in the driveway. Walk, bike and take mass transit when you can — a round trip on Metro costs less than a gallon of gas nowadays.

■ Beat the heat. The engine powers the air conditioner on most cars, which means that running the AC burns fuel, reducing gas mileage by 1 to 4 mpg. And the hotter it is out there, the more energy your vehicle's AC will consume.

What actions could void your entire new vehicle warranty?

By Ronald Montoya
Edmunds

A new car limited warranty, sometimes called a "bumper-to-bumper" warranty, is a contract between the vehicle owner and the automaker. It promises to take care of any applicable repairs provided that the owner properly maintains the vehicle. But like most contracts, a warranty can be broken if one person doesn't hold up his or her end of the bargain. That's why it's important to know what circumstances can void that coverage.

Any time you take your vehicle to the dealership for warranty work, the dealer must file a claim with the manufacturer or warranty provider. That's how it gets paid for the work performed under warranty. If a repair isn't covered under the manufacturer's warranty, the claim will be denied and the dealer will come to you to pay for the work out of your own pocket.

Here are a few reasons how your warranty claim can be denied.

Salvage title: If your car was in a severe accident and was given a salvage title or declared a total loss, your entire warranty is voided. Keep this in mind if you are looking to purchase a late-model used car from a private party or an independent used car lot. If you are unsure about a car's past, we suggest getting a vehicle history report.

Misuse of the vehicle: This term can be interpreted in a number of ways and often includes racing or competition of any type, overloading the vehicle, or going off-road if the vehicle wasn't designed to. Some automakers will void your warranty for these infractions, and this decision is typically left to the discretion of the warranty administrator. Even if there is no proof and only signs of abuse, your warranty claim may be denied.

Environmental damage: If your vehicle was damaged in a fire, flood, hailstorm, earthquake or any other environmental disaster, the automaker will not honor your warranty.

Altered odometer: If your car's odometer has been disconnected, tampered with or replaced, the dealership cannot determine the exact mileage. This is usually grounds for a voided warranty. Make sure to run a vehicle history report before buying a used car to check for any mileage inconsistencies.

TOMMY/GETTY

The 2022 Mitsubishi Outlander starts at $25,795 on its two-wheel drive model. **MITSUBISHI**

AUTO REVIEW

Extreme Makeover, the 2022 Mitsubishi Outlander edition

The Detroit News

The new Mitsubishi Outlander is outlandish.

And that's a good thing, because the auto industry's doormat wants you to know that things have changed. Recent Outlander and Outlander Sport models have been uninspired blue-light specials, their interiors right out of a rental car catalogue, their tech and styling subpar.

The 2022 Outlander arrived in my driveway like a pinata at a birthday party. Head-turning outside, stuffed with treats inside. The grille was so outrageous I thought it might have been torn off a Chevy Silverado HD. Waterfall grille, mid-facia headlights, high-mounted running lights, more chrome than a Costco birthday cake has icing. The interior? Like no Mitsu I'd ever seen. Big leather accents, big digital screens, big three-row layout. The Outlander is a compact-class SUV? Yes, but its attitude makes it seem a lot bigger.

Credit the Outlander's transformation to Mitsubishi's marriage to Nissan. I'm happy these two confused souls have found each other after some difficult years. Expect more of these unions as regulatory costs soar and governments force automakers to make expensive, small-volume EVs. Outlander is the union's first offspring and is loaded with Nissan DNA while retaining Mitsubishi's more rouge-ish attitude.

2022 Mitsubishi Outlander

Vehicle type: Front-engine, front- and all-wheel-drive, seven-passenger compact SUV
Price: $27,290
Powerplant: 2.5-liter 4 cylinder
Horsepower/Torque: 181/181
Transmission: continuously variable
Performance: 0-60 mph, 8.2 seconds (Car and Driver); Top speed, 120 mph
Weight: 3,864 pounds
EPA fuel economy (city/highway/combined): 24/30/26

The Outlander's interior has been transformed with a tablet mounted high on the dash, bold horizontal lines, intuitive knob controls and generous console storage. Step up to my all-wheel-drive SEL Touring model and Cinderella really flaunts her new figure.

Quilted seats, head-up display, all-digital displays, automatic-sliding sunroof, standard three-row seating, seat memory, the works. Look more closely and Nissan Rogue-like touches are everywhere. Cool chiclet shifter. Large infotainment display, steering wheel-mounted controls, control knobs and more.

All-wheel-drive optioned models like my tester come with unique off-road modes including normal, eco, tarmac (sport), gravel and snow. This off-road personality is key to distinguishing Outlander from the crisp, volume-selling Rogue. Particularly when Outlander gets the same driver-assist systems (Rogue's ProPilot Assist vs. MI-Pilot Assist in Outlander) as well as the same 181-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine.

My loaded SEL Touring model included goodies like all-wheel drive, wireless Apple CarPlay, hands-free power liftgate, adaptive cruise and panoramic sunroof for $38,590 — or, um, about the same price as a comparable Rogue Platinum model and the rockin', corner-carvin', best-in-class, 250-horsepower, $38,470, Soul Red Mazda CX-5. Oh. That's a tough sell for a value brand trying to get back in the game. But the good news, at least, is that Outlander's got game.

Possible fix for ignition

Bob Weber
Motormouth

If the engine does not crank, the problem probably lies with the starter. **DREAMSTIME**

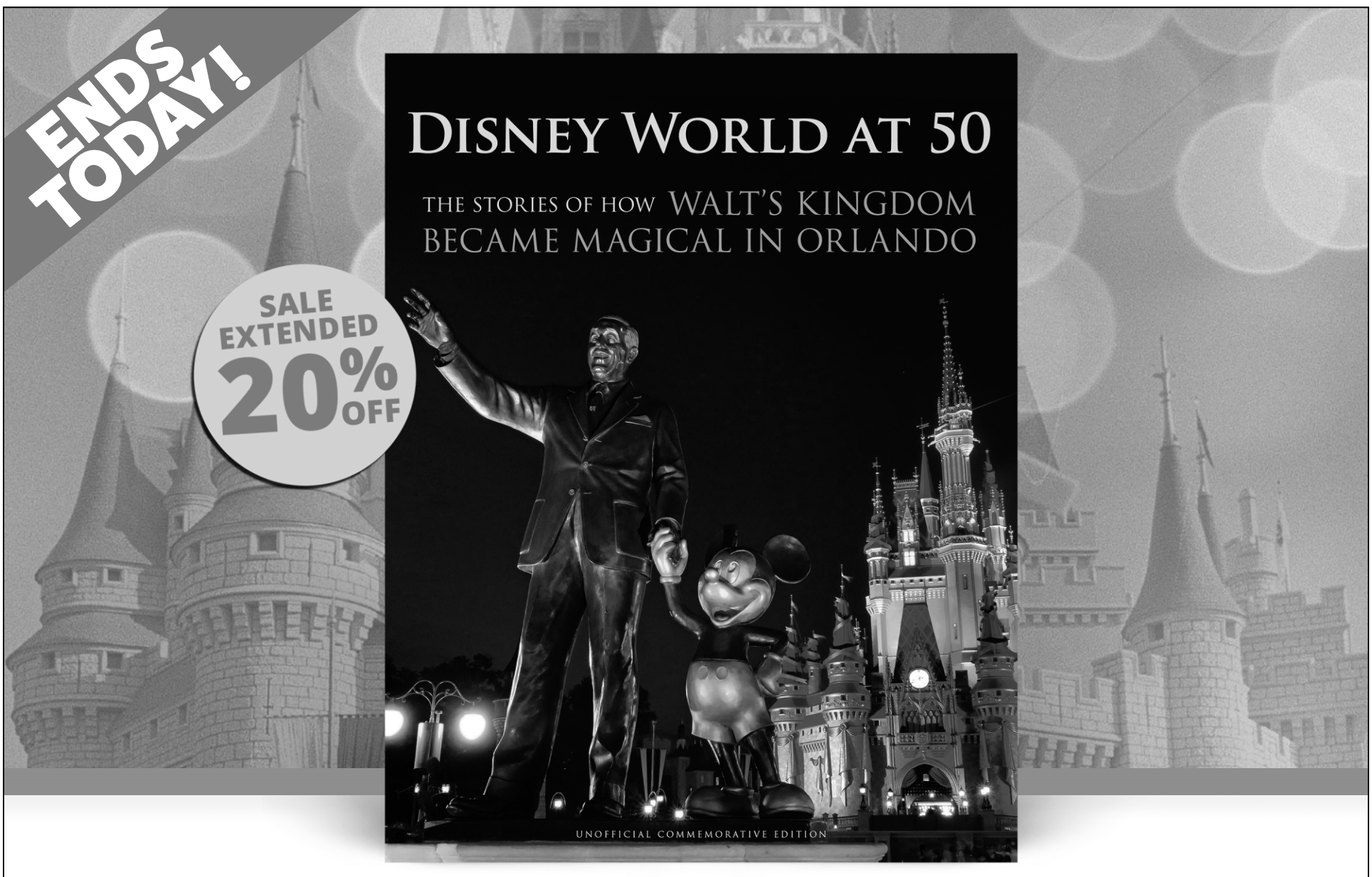
Q: I read your article on the ignition problems of a 2008 GMC Canyon with the 3.7-liter motor. I have the 2010 model with the same engine and had the same no-start issue. After a couple of warranty visits, the dealer asked to keep the truck for tests. The ignition lock change didn't solve the issue. What apparently worked was that the mechanic located, disconnected and cleaned all the ground points he could find based on the schematics for the model year. I still have the truck 115,250 miles later; so far, no issues with the ignition.
— R.H. Toano, Virginia
A: You found an excellent technician. Very few will spend the time to be so thorough. Chasing ground connections is like a dog chasing its tail.

Q: I have a 2006 Chevy Trailblazer with 155,000 miles and runs great. My problem is that, for the past year, the vehicle will sometimes fail to start after being driven. I have had numerous parts replaced (fuel pump, mass air flow sensor, spark plugs, ignition switch, etc.) and the starting problem continues. The failure to start only occurs when the vehicle has been driven and then parked such as when going to the grocery store. If I then wait 30 to 45 minutes, the vehicle will restart. Any thoughts on a potential cause?
— P.G., Virginia Beach, Virginia
A: If the engine does not crank, the problem probably lies with the starter. One trick I have used over the years is to tap the starter with something such as a tool or small hammer. If that gets you going, go to your favorite shop for a replacement. If it cranks but does not start, the problem is something else.

Q: I recently purchased a car in Arizona. They added a charge for nitrogen in the tires that included lifetime fills. Is this something necessary in the hot climates or just a scam? I am going with a scam.
— R.G., Cave Creek, Arizona
A: I would not call a $10 to $15 per-tire charge a scam, but the customer should be told of the option upfront. Free lifetime inflation fills seems silly if nitrogen is unlikely to escape. There is an argument that nitrogen molecules are less likely to pass through the rubber than plain air. Plain air is, however, roughly 80 percent nitrogen. Go figure. I use air and have never had an issue. Of course, it is rare to find free air nowadays. Gas stations may no longer have pay toilets, but they do have pay air compressors.

Q: Your reply to J. & G.J. regarding high octane was spot on, but additionally, use of low octane fuel in a high compression engine will likely cause engine knock just as you said, which should be detected by the engine's knock sensor. Thus (if all systems are working), ignition timing will be hindered and performance and economy will be reduced.
— M.B., Chicago
A: Your reply to my reply is spot on. At the first sign of engine knock, the sensor will send a signal to the powertrain control module, which will then incrementally back off the ignition timing until the sound stops. So, if you expect top performance from a turbocharged or high-performance engine, you are encouraged to use premium, high-octane fuel.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



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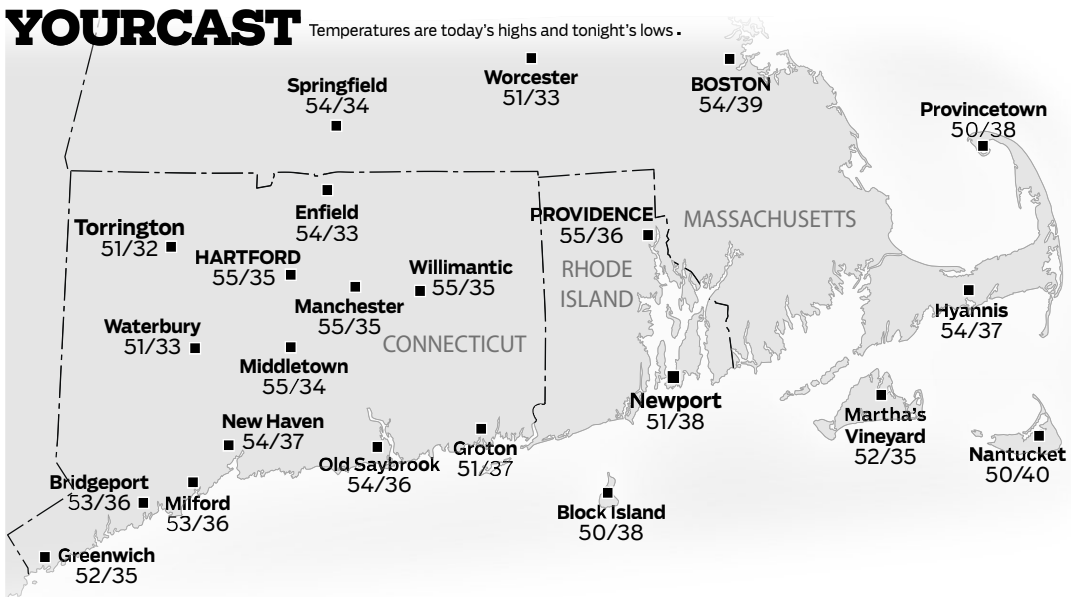
WEATHER

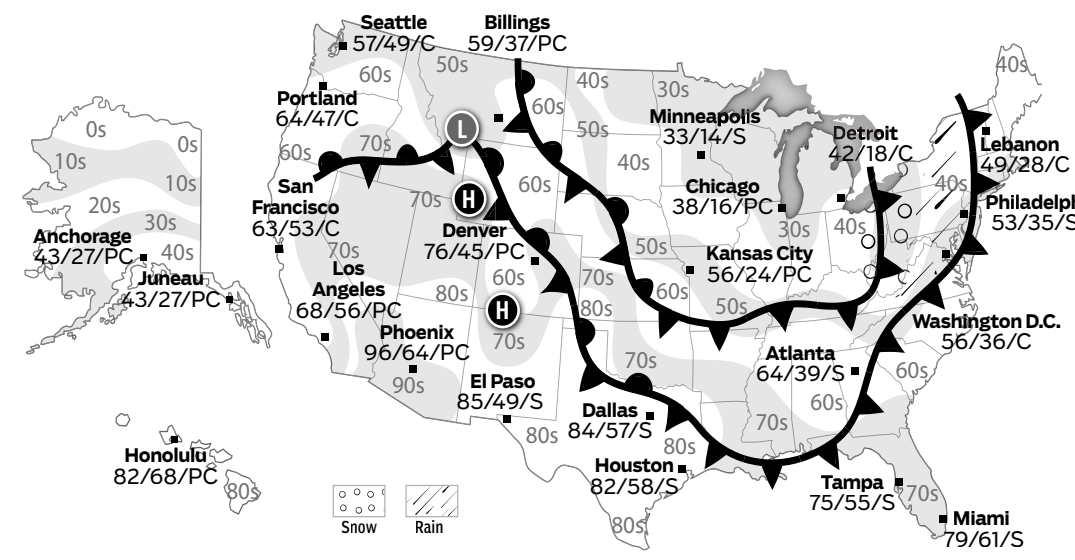
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Thickening cloudiness, chance for afternoon showers and a few thunderstorms.	Partly sunny and breezy.	Mixed clouds and sunshine, windy and very chilly.	Mostly sunny and breezy.	Thickening clouds, a late day shower is possible, not as cool.
HIGH 55°	HIGH 46°	HIGH 31°	HIGH 42°	HIGH 48°
LOW 35°	LOW 23°	LOW 18°	LOW 23°	LOW 33°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.





OUTLOOK

Saturday will start off rather pleasant with a partly cloudy sky, but as the day progresses cloudiness will be thickening as a cold front to the west approaches the state. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are likely from the mid-afternoon into the evening hours. Some of the thunderstorms have the potential to produce some small hail. Temperatures will be close to five degrees above normal. The mild readings will be replaced by high temperatures close to five degrees below normal on Sunday along with a partly sunny sky and breezy conditions.

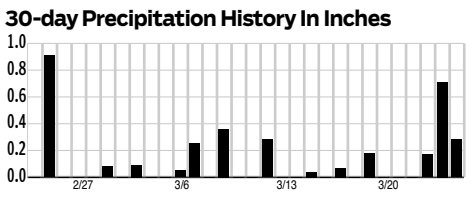
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.52	0.12
Month to date	2.56	3.11
Total this year	8.87	9.52
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.2
Total this year	31.5	49.7

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	5:00 a.m. 5:35 p.m.	11:44 a.m. 11:58 p.m.	44°
Saybrook Jetty	6:11 a.m. 6:46 p.m.	a.m. 12:37 p.m.	44°
Connecticut River at Portland	8:54 a.m. 9:29 p.m.	3:30 a.m. 4:23 p.m.	
Madison	6:21 a.m. 7:02 p.m.	a.m. 12:48 p.m.	43°
New Haven	6:41 a.m. 7:22 p.m.	12:23 a.m. 1:12 p.m.	42°
Stamford	6:45 a.m. 7:26 p.m.	12:37 a.m. 1:26 p.m.	43°

River Stage at Hartford: 11.03 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Good 33	Low 2	36°

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:45 a.m.	6:43 a.m.
Sunset	7:09 p.m.	7:10 p.m.
Moonrise	3:50 a.m.	4:38 a.m.
Moonset	12:45 p.m.	1:58 p.m.

Moon Phase

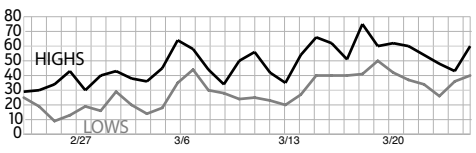
New	First	Full	Last
Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	SW, 5-15	SW, 5-15	SW, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	60 at 3:22 p.m	40 at 5:52 a.m
Normal for date	51	31
Record for date	78 in 1910	9 in 1956
A year ago	75	51
Range this year	76	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 25	4574	5043	4740

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	29.74 at 12 a.m.	29.47 at 3 p.m.
Dew point	42° at 12 p.m.	33° at 7 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			
Bangor	49	32	C
Burlington	48	30	C
Caribou	42	28	C
Concord	49	31	C
Montpelier	43	27	C
Mt. Wash.	24	13	C
Portland	52	36	C
Woods Hole	49	35	C
NATION			
Albany	47	29	C
Albuquerque	78	47	S
Atlantic City	53	34	C
Baltimore	54	33	C
Bismarck	38	15	PC
Boise	69	47	PC
Buffalo	42	25	SH
Charleston	72	41	S
Cincinnati	42	24	C
Cleveland	38	23	SF
Indianapolis	38	23	C
Jacksonville	76	43	S
Las Vegas	91	63	PC
Miami Beach	77	63	S
Milwaukee	33	15	C
Nashville	60	31	S
New Orleans	75	55	S
New York	53	37	C
Okla. City	76	47	S
Omaha	51	22	S
Orlando	79	55	S
Pittsburgh	39	24	SN
Raleigh	61	34	PC
St. Louis	54	28	S
Salt Lake City	79	52	PC
San Antonio	88	54	S
San Diego	68	60	PC
San Juan	86	73	PC
Tucson	94	56	S
WORLD			
Amsterdam	61	43	S
Athens	59	43	S
Bangkok	95	81	T
Barbados	84	72	PC
Beijing	59	43	S
Beirut	65	53	PC
Berlin	57	39	C
Bermuda	71	64	SH
Budapest	68	44	S
Buenos Aires	77	57	SH
Cairo	72	50	S
Cancun	81	69	PC
Dubai	93	75	PC
Dublin	61	36	PC
Edinburgh	60	36	S
Helsinki	34	28	C
Hong Kong	82	64	SH
Istanbul	48	39	R
Jerusalem	55	39	PC
Johannesburg	72	59	T
Kingston	88	75	PC
Lisbon	66	52	PC
London	63	45	S
Madrid	59	46	SH
Mexico City	83	57	S
Milan	68	43	C
Montreal	45	30	SH
Moscow	46	25	R
Nassau	75	59	PC
New Delhi	95	68	PC
Paris	66	45	S
Prague	64	45	S
Rio de Janeiro	97	75	C
Rome	70	50	C
Seoul	63	41	R
Singapore	93	75	T
Stockholm	44	28	C
Sydney	75	64	SH
Tel Aviv	63	52	PC
Tokyo	61	57	SH
Toronto	43	21	I
Vancouver	52	46	R
Warsaw	52	30	SH

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

SOCCER

Hartford Athletic look to rebound from opening loss

Staff report

The Hartford Athletic (0-1) look to rebound from their season-opening loss at Pittsburgh as they face the Tampa Bay Rowdies (2-0-1) in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Saturday.

Last week, Pittsburgh broke through first with a goal by Robbie Dambrot in the 12th minute. Hartford forward Juan Carlos Obregón Jr. tied it in the 40th minute, assisted by midfielder Prince Saydee. Shortly after, a second yellow card — and subsequent ejection — was issued to Athletic midfielder Peter-Lee Vassell, allowing the Riverhounds' Kenardo Forbes to score the winning goal in the 51st minute to lift Pittsburgh past Hartford 2-1.

Saturday's matchup will be another early-season challenge for Hartford. The Rowdies have made the USL Championship playoffs in the past three seasons and played in the final in 2020 and 2021. They are currently in second place in the Eastern Conference.

Here's what you need to know about the game.

Promising signs

Despite only producing one goal last week, Hartford showed promise in its set pieces in its season opener.

Defender Tom Brewitt nearly gave the Athletic an early lead when he headed a corner kick just wide of the net off of a well-struck delivery from midfielder Danny Barrera. In a last-ditch effort to equalize in stoppage time, Midfielder Andre Lewis fed a perfectly placed ball to forward Jeciel Cedeño, whose shot was blocked, and headed to defender Younes Boudadi, whose shot was booted away by a Riverhounds' defender just in front of the goal line.

If Hartford can find the back of the net through a set piece on Saturday, it may be the winning formula against a Tampa Bay squad that has only conceded once in three matches so far in 2022.

The basics

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Al Lang Stadium, St. Petersburg, Florida
Opponent: Tampa Bay Rowdies, 2-0-1, second place in Eastern Conference
Last meeting: Sept. 25, Tampa Bay won 2-1
TV: WCTX MyTV9
Livestream: ESPN+ or hartfordathletic.com/watch

Series history

The Athletic are 2-4-0 against the Rowdies all-time and 1-2 at Al Lang Stadium, including a 1-0 win on July 13, 2021, in which Hartford blocked three shots in the final seconds to seal the victory.

RANGERS 5, PENGUINS 1

3 early goals ignite Rangers' rout of Pens

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris Kreider scored twice, Mika Zibanejad had three assists and Igor Shesterkin made 20 saves as the New York Rangers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-1 on Friday night.

Alexis Lafreniere, Frank Vatrano and newcomer Andrew Copp also scored for the Rangers, who scored three times in the first four-plus minutes of the game against Penguins goalie Tristian Jarry, who entered with a five-game winning streak and a 7-1-0 mark in his last eight appearances.

Jeff Carter scored Pittsburgh's lone goal six minutes into the third.

The Rangers recovered from Tuesday's 7-4 road loss to the Devils with a convincing performance against the Penguins, a potential first-round playoff opponent making their first visit to Madison Square Garden this season.

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S HOCKEY

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round (Allentown Pa.)
QUINNIPIAC VS. ST. CLOUD STATE, LATE

BASEBALL

UCONN 19, RHODE ISLAND 2
UMBC 17, HARTFORD 5
WAGNER 5, CENTRAL 1
EMERSON 8, WESLEYAN 7
QUINNIPIAC 8, ST. JOHN'S 5
MERRIMACK 6, SACRED HEART 5
FAIRFIELD 13, MARIST 10
TRINITY VS. MIDDLEBURY, LATE

SOFTBALL

UCONN 7, DEPAUL 6
GRINNELL 5, TRINITY 4
EASTERN 4-2, SPRINGFIELD 0-3
TRINITY VS. GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS, LATE

MEN'S TENNIS

GRINNELL 7, TRINITY 2

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TRINITY 6, GRINNELL 3

SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—Sweet 16(Bridgeport)
Indiana vs. UConn, 2p.m.

BASEBALL

Yale at Princeton (2), 11:30a.m.
UMBC at Hartford, noon
Castleton at Eastern (2), noon
UConn at Rhode Island, 1p.m.
Central at Wagner, 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at St. John's, 1p.m.
Sacred Heart at Merrimack, 1p.m.
Fairfield at Marist, 1p.m.
Trinity vs. Middlebury (Winter Haven, Fla.), 2p.m.

SOFTBALL

Maine vs. Hartford (at Quinnipiac), 9:30a.m.
Hartford at Quinnipiac, noon
St. Joseph at Bay Path (2), noon
Yale at Dartmouth (2), 12:30p.m.
UMass Lowell at Sacred Heart (2), 12:30p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at Central (2), 1p.m.
Curry at Wesleyan (2), 1p.m.
Stony Brook at Fairfield (2), 1p.m.
Maine at Quinnipiac, 2:30p.m.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Eastern at Salem State, noon
Monmouth at Quinnipiac, noon
Mount St. Mary's at Sacred Heart, noon
Tufts at Trinity, 1p.m.
Bowdoin at Wesleyan, 1p.m.
St. Joseph at Regis, 1p.m.
Princeton at Yale, 3:30p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Central at Wagner, 11a.m.
Trinity at Tufts, noon
Wesleyan at Bowdoin, noon
Penn at Yale, noon
Hofstra at UConn, 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at Marist, 1p.m.
St. Joseph at Colby-Sawyer, 2p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

Sacred Heart at Quinnipiac, noon

MEN'S TENNIS

Wesleyan at Hamilton, 2p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Wesleyan at Hamilton, 10a.m.
Army at UConn, noon

SUNDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

UMBC at Hartford, noon
Yale at Princeton, noon
New England College at Eastern, 12:30p.m.
Rhode Island at UConn, 1p.m.
Central at Wagner, 1p.m.
Wesleyan at Mitchell (2), 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at St. John's, 1p.m.
Sacred Heart at Merrimack, 1p.m.
Fairfield at Marist, 1p.m.

SOFTBALL

Maine at Quinnipiac, 9:30a.m.
DePaul at UConn, noon
Maine vs. Hartford (at Quinnipiac), noon
St. Francis (Pa.) at Central, noon
Yale at Dartmouth, 12:30p.m.
Hartford at Quinnipiac, 2:30p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Wesleyan at Babson, 1p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

Wesleyan at Amherst, 2p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Wesleyan at Amherst, 10a.m.
St. John's at UConn, 4p.m.

BIG EAST BASEBALL

Standings

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
UConn	0-0	.000	16-4	.800
Georgetown	0-0	.000	13-8	.619
Creighton	0-0	.000	9-6	.600
Butler	0-0	.000	9-11	.450
Xavier	0-0	.000	10-13	.435
St. John's	0-0	.000	7-15	.318
Villanova	0-0	.000	3-13-1	.206
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	1-17	.056

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

UCONN 19, RHODE ISLAND 2
QUINNIPIAC 8, ST. JOHN'S 5
XAVIER 8, CINCINNATI 7
GEORGETOWN 6, VMI 2
VILLANOVA AT RICHMOND, LATE
NORTHWESTERN AT BUTLER, LATE
CREIGHTON AT WICHITA STATE, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Southern Illinois at Butler, noon
UConn at Rhode Island, 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at St. John's, 1p.m.
Villanova at Richmond, 1p.m.
St. Joseph's (Pa.) at Seton Hall, 1p.m.
VMI at Georgetown, 2p.m.
Cincinnati at Xavier, 4p.m.
Creighton at Wichita State, time TBA

BIG EAST SOFTBALL

Standings

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
UConn	6-1	.857	16-11	.593
Butler	5-2	.714	17-9	.654
Providence	4-3	.571	17-8	.680
Seton Hall	4-4	.500	12-12	.500
Georgetown	2-2	.500	11-13	.458
Creighton	2-3	.400	12-10	.545
DePaul	1-3	.250	11-15	.423
Villanova	1-2	.333	11-17	.393
St. John's	1-6	.143	5-21	.192

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

UCONN 7, DEPAUL 6
VILLANOVA 6, ST. JOHN'S 2
SETON HALL 8, BUTLER 5
CREIGHTON 10, PROVIDENCE 0 (5)

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

St. John's at Villnova, 11a.m.
DePaul at UConn, 1p.m.
Providence at Creighton, 2p.m.

REGIONAL DIGEST

UConn blows out Rhode Island, 19-2

The UConn baseball team had 12 hits — including four home runs — and took advantage of 11 walks to roll past Rhode Island 19-2 on Wednesday at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs in the first of three games with the Rams.

Ben Huber and T.C. Simmons each had four RBI for the Huskies (16-4), Bryan Padilla had three RBI and Erik Stock two. All four homered for UConn. The teams continue the series on Saturday at Rhode Island before returning to Eliott Ballpark on Sunday.

— Staff report

Wolf Pack fall to Springfield, 3-2

Dakota Joshua's goal at 15:09 of the third period lifted the Springfield Thunderbirds to a 3-2 AHL Atlantic Division win over the Hartford Wolf Pack at the XL Center. Hartford has now lost six of seven, including its last two to first place Springfield. Patrick Khodorenko and Lauri Pajuniemi scored the Wolf Pack goals.

— Staff report

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The glaze on the passion fruit-poppy seed muffins makes them richer and imparts a powerful citrus taste. MARIAH TAUGER/ LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTOS

Brighten up your day with PASSION FRUIT

By Ben Mims | Los Angeles Times

We're smack dab in the middle of citrus season, so it may be easy to overlook them, but passion fruit are at their peak right now.

They bring that distinctive "tart sunshine" flavor even better than most citrus, and I love finding new ways to use the pulp, even though I often just eat it straight from the shells with a spoon — the classic approach.

If you need inspiration for recipes that use the wonderfully golden juice, try making sorbet, the next best thing to raw. Sweetened with a little sugar and churned until icy, it's the perfect thing to make right now.

And if you want a baking project, make my passion fruit-poppy seed muffins, a spin on the classic lemon breakfast treat that packs a more colorful punch than the yellow citrus ever could.

Passion fruit sorbet

Time: 15 minutes, plus 4 ½ hours freezing time
Makes: 12 servings

Buy a few extra passion fruit, because some can be filled with less pulp than others, even though they are the same size. The orange and lime juices help round out passion fruit's distinctive tang. If you want to make this but don't have access to fresh passion fruit, substitute ¾ cup frozen passion fruit puree for the fresh pulp and pack the sorbet in a plastic container as you would any ice cream. If you don't have an ice cream maker, see the granita variation.

6 large, wrinkled passion fruit
1 cup granulated sugar
¾ cup filtered water
Juice of 1 large orange
Juice of 2 limes

1. Halve the passion fruit across their equators and, working over a bowl, use a small spoon to scrape out all their pulp; reserve the empty shells on a plate. Measure out ¾ cup of the pulp in a liquid measuring cup; keep any remaining pulp for another use, such as in lemonade or as a topping for yogurt and granola.
2. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar and water and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Immediately remove the pan from the heat and stir in the passion fruit pulp, orange juice and lime juice. Let the syrup cool to room temperature in the pan, about 30 minutes.
3. Using an immersion or stand blender, pulse the passion fruit syrup a few times to break up the seeds and then pour the syrup through a fine mesh strainer into a bowl, pressing to extract as much liquid as possible. If you want some seeds in the sorbet for aesthetics and crunch, add 1 teaspoon of the broken seeds from the strainer back to the syrup; otherwise, discard all the seeds. Pour the syrup into a resealable container and chill at least 2 hours or overnight in the refrigerator.
4. Stir the syrup and then pour it into an ice cream machine and churn according to the manufacturer's instructions. Spoon the sorbet into the reserved passion fruit shells and smooth the tops flat or mound up slightly; store any remaining sorbet in a resealable container in the freezer.
5. Place the filled hulls on the plate in the freezer and chill until firm, at least 2 hours. Enjoy straight from the freezer with a spoon.

Passion fruit granita

In Step 4, pour mixture into shallow glass dish and freeze for 4 hours, scraping mixture every 30 minutes with the tines of a fork, until it forms fluffy crystals like shaved ice. Spoon granita into the reserved passion fruit shells and freeze until ready to serve.
Make ahead: You can make the passion fruit syrup base up to 1 week before you plan to churn the sorbet. The churned sorbet will keep in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Passion fruit-poppy seed muffins

These muffins are meant to be eaten for breakfast and are, therefore, pretty lean. The glaze on them makes them richer and imparts a powerful passion fruit taste, so if you want a more subtle flavor, omit the extra two tablespoons of passion fruit juice, the powdered sugar and the extra teaspoon of poppy seeds, and instead sprinkle some extra granulated sugar over each muffin cup before baking to get a crunchy top.

Time: 45 minutes
1 ¾ pounds ripe passion fruit (12 to 14)
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more
1 cup granulated sugar, plus more for sprinkling
¾ cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon poppy seeds
3 large eggs
1 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners (or spray the cups with nonstick baking spray). Split each passion fruit and scoop out its pulp with a spoon and into a medium-mesh strainer set over a medium bowl. Stir the seeds and pulp with the spoon again and again until only the seeds remain and all the pulp is in the bowl (be sure to scrape the bottom of the strainer as well). Pour the pulp into a liquid measuring cup to reach ¾ cup, then pour 2 tablespoons of the remaining pulp into a small bowl. If you have any pulp left over after this, pour it into a plastic bag and freeze it for another use, such as mixing into cocktails or eating on yogurt and granola.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. In a medium bowl, whisk together the sugar, oil, poppy seeds, eggs and ¾ cup passion fruit pulp. Pour the liquid ingredients over the dry ingredients, and stir until just combined.
3. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups. Bake until light golden brown at the edges and a toothpick inserted in the center of each muffin comes out clean, 22 to 24 minutes. Transfer the muffins to a wire rack and let cool completely.
4. In the small bowl with the remaining 2 tablespoons passion fruit juice, stir in the powdered sugar and remaining 1 teaspoon poppy seeds with a pinch of salt until they form a smooth glaze. Dip the tops of the muffins in the glaze and arrange right-side up on the rack to allow the glaze to set before serving.

Spring lamb with rosemary and turnips, left, and onion tart with leeks, capers and anchovies — a meal that allows you to skip ahead in time to spring. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

Fast-forward to spring

Season-bridging menu features savory onion tart, lamb with tender turnips and a strawberry dessert

By David Tanis
The New York Times

Depending on where you live, when March rolls around, either spring has sprung or you sorely wish it would start springing.

Getting tired of squash and parsnips? I am, too.

But, if some spring produce items, like the new-crop turnips or strawberries called for in these recipes, aren't yet available in your region, give yourself permission to jump the season a bit. Buy onions and leeks at the farmers' market, but get organic berries at the supermarket.

Of course, you can find onions any time. But this time of year, when the produce options are more limited, it's nice to let them show off a little.

Along with leeks and a little garlic, slowly softened onions serve as the base for a first-course savory tart. For the best-tasting topping, use a good, fruity extra-virgin olive oil, and season the alliums well with salt, pepper and thyme.

Make this oniony base whenever you have 10 or 15 minutes to spare. It can sit at room temperature until you're ready to put the tart together (or refrigerate it and use it within a couple of days).

Once the filling is ready, the bulk of the work is done. All that's left to do is to spread the prepared onions on a sheet of rolled-out puff pastry, then top them with anchovy fillets and capers, and bake it to a golden brown.

Use any kind of flaky pastry or pie dough you wish, or you can even spread the mixture on a yeasted pizza dough. But using store-bought or homemade puff pastry dough makes the most dazzling impression. Serve it slightly warm from the oven or at room temperature. A bowl of lightly dressed salad greens served alongside would also be welcome.

On to the main course. If you ask a friend to drop by for lamb and turnips, the response may be less than enthusiastic, since it conjures an image of a heavy wintry mutton stew. But this lamb-and-turnip dinner is quite the opposite. It calls for the most succulent cut of lamb, the rack, roasted over rosemary sprigs, then sliced into chops. An eight-bone rack of lamb can be cut into four double chops or eight small ones. Though I think one lamb rack is enough for four servings, you may want to roast two for guests with heartier appetites.

As for the turnips, this menu features small sweet new turnips, no bigger than Ping-Pong balls, and most certainly not the large purple-topped keepers you usually find near the potatoes at the grocery store.

New turnips are sent to market with their green tops attached and are well worth seeking out. Use the smallest ones you can find, halved or quartered, or cut medium white turnips into small wedges. (In a pinch, you can also use round red radishes and, if turnip tops are not available, use spinach, mizuna or other quick-wilting cooking greens.) Tiny turnips cook quickly in a saucepan, barely covered with water, with a lump of butter — or a big glug of olive oil — thrown in. They're simmered briskly for five minutes, until tender, then the greens are tossed in so they wilt. Finally, the heat is raised to cook away most of the water. Cooked this way, young turnips are simply exquisite.

Lastly, for dessert, I always find fresh fruit to be the best option. The choice was an easy one, since ripe, sweet organic strawberries are now available at my West Coast farmers' market. To them, I added a pool of crème anglaise, an easy-to-make pouring custard and a splash of rose water, since strawberries are botanically related to roses. It makes for a nice pairing, and a few rose petals add drama. Though a sprinkling of confectioners' sugar and a splash of Champagne would also not be a bad idea, lending everything a celebratory sweetness that beckons spring to hurry up and arrive.

Strawberries in rose crème anglaise

Fresh fruit is an excellent option for dessert. Here, ripe, sweet organic strawberries are served in a pool of crème anglaise, an easy-to-make pouring custard, with a splash of rose water. Since strawberries are botanically related to roses, it's a nice pairing, and a few rose petals add drama. Make the crème anglaise a day or two in advance.

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 30 minutes
1 ½ cups half-and-half or whole milk
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon cornstarch
4 egg yolks
Ice
½ teaspoon rose flower water, plus more to taste
1 pound strawberries, hulled and halved, or left whole if small
Confectioners' sugar, to taste
Rose petals, for garnish (optional)

1. Put half-and-half in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to just under a simmer, then turn off heat.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together sugar, cornstarch and egg yolks. Whisking constantly, slowly drizzle hot half-and-half into the sugar mixture, then pour the mixture back into the saucepan. Cook, whisking, over a very low heat until the mixture coats the back of the spoon, 5 to 10 minutes. (Alternatively, you can do this in a double boiler.) Remove from heat and strain sauce through a fine-mesh sieve. Cool over an ice bath, then stir in rose flower water. Serve immediately, or refrigerate until ready to serve. (Crème anglaise can be made up to 2 days in advance.)
3. To serve, place strawberries in a bowl and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, tasting as you go until the berries are your preferred sweetness. If you like, add 2 or 3 drops of the rose flower water to the berries.
4. Pour ½ cup sauce into shallow dessert bowls. Spoon berries over. Garnish with rose petals, if using.

Onion tart with leeks, capers and anchovies

Though this tart may seem complicated, it's actually rather simple to put together. Once you make the savory onion mixture, all that's left to do is spread it on a sheet of rolled-out puff pastry, top it with anchovy fillets and capers, and bake it to a golden brown. Use any kind of flaky pastry or pie dough you wish, or even spread the mixture on yeasted pizza dough. Accompany with a salad of small lettuce greens if desired. The tart is delicious served warm or at room temperature.

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
3 medium onions, diced (about 3 cups)
Salt and pepper
3 medium leeks, white and tender green parts, diced (about 2 cups)
3 garlic cloves, minced
½ teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
1 sheet store-bought all-butter puff pastry, thawed and rolled into a 10-inch circle (or use any favorite pie dough recipe)
2 teaspoons medium capers, rinsed
8 anchovy fillets
2 teaspoons snipped chives or chopped parsley
1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Put olive oil in a wide skillet or heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. When oil is wavy, add onions and cook, stirring, until softened and lightly browned, about 5 to 7 minutes. Season well with salt and pepper.
3. Add leeks, garlic and thyme, and cook for another 5 minutes, until leeks are softened but still bright green. Taste and adjust seasoning, then spread mixture on a baking sheet to cool to room temperature.
4. Lay pastry round on a rimmed parchment-lined baking sheet. Spread cooled onion mixture over pastry, leaving a 1-inch border. Fold over the border and crimp.
5. Sprinkle capers evenly over onion mixture. Arrange anchovy fillets on top.
6. Bake for 45 minutes, until the pastry is nicely browned. Cool tart for 5 minutes, then sprinkle the chives on top and cut into wedges to serve.

Spring lamb with rosemary and turnips

For a fragrant spring meal, choose the tenderest cut of lamb, the rack, and roast it over rosemary branches as done in this recipe. Roast two racks for guests with heartier appetites, but one really is enough for four servings. You'll want to use small, sweet new turnips here, no bigger than Ping-Pong balls. But if you can't find them, use the smallest turnips available or cut medium turnips into wedges. And if your turnips don't have their tops, substitute them with spinach, mizuna or other tender cooking greens.

Makes: 4 to 8 servings
Total time: 1 ½ hours
2 (1 ½-pound) racks of lamb, trimmed of excess fat and frenched
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons roughly chopped rosemary leaves, plus about 12 large sprigs
12 ounces baby turnips, roots trimmed, halved or whole, washed but not peeled
5 ounces turnip greens or other greens
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1. Season lamb generously with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with chopped rosemary, and rub the herbs into the surface of the lamb. Arrange rosemary sprigs on the bottom of a roasting pan. Lay lamb rack(s) over sprigs. Let meat come to room temperature before roasting.
2. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
3. Roast lamb, uncovered, for 30 minutes, until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part reads 125 degrees (for medium-rare). Let rest on a cutting board.
4. Put turnips in a wide medium saucepan over medium heat and cover with 1 inch of water. Season with salt, add butter and bring to a brisk simmer. When turnips are fork-tender, about 5 minutes, add greens and cook, stirring, until wilted, about 2 more minutes. If desired, bring the water to a boil and let evaporate. Let turnips brown slightly in the remaining butter, if you like.
5. Cut lamb racks into 4 thick chops or 8 thin chops, slicing between the bones.

One baker's quest for bread that blurs borders

Guerra traces wheat to its deepest roots in North America

By John Birdsall
The New York Times

Employees prepare orders for delivery in October at Barrio Bread in Tucson, Arizona. **REBECCA NOBLE/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

TUCSON, Ariz. — The July sun was barely up, but the heat was already inching well above comfortable. Don Guerra seemed unfazed, though, as if the desert had long ago settled in his bones. He had been moving briskly since 4 a.m. to the clanking soundtrack of an integrated loader, the stiff canvas conveyor belt that sends raw torpedoes of pain au levain onto the decks of his four-level oven at Barrio Bread.

Guerra, 51, shook flour thickly over the surface of purplish-gray dough before reaching for a plastic stencil: an image of wheat spears bobbing before a saguaro cactus. "One of my absolute favorites," he said of the loaf, which he calls the Locavore. Once it's finished, it has the lush smell of malt and a sharp whiff of sour. It contains three types of wheat (all grown in southern Arizona), including White Sonora, which Guerra has helped revive.

Bringing that heirloom variety back into use was purposeful. Because although Guerra still uses the vocabulary and traditions of French and Italian bread baking, he has managed something radical. Baking exclusively with grains grown in southern Arizona, Guerra has traced wheat to its deepest roots in North America: the stretch of the Sonoran Desert that includes Tucson and that dips below the U.S.-Mexico border to the fields where Spanish missionaries are believed to have introduced the grain in the mid-1600s.

Moreover, in a craft baking industry that skews overwhelmingly white, and in a nation where the iconography of wheat seems etched into the amber waves of the Great Plains, Guerra is — gently, and with a smile — challenging the culture.

Black, Indigenous and other people of color are often marginalized in the baking community, said Guerra, but for him, baking is integral to his identity.

"The bread is ultimately who I am," he said.

In Tucson, a city better known for flour tortillas than levain, Guerra is a star of the local-grain movement. Lots of craft bakers talk about growing local-grain economies, using grains harvested and milled a relatively short distance from their ovens — the locavore ethos applied to baking. Guerra has been doing it for years, working with southern Arizona grain growers, the Indigenous San Xavier Cooperative Farm and other groups.

One of his first obsessions was White Sonora wheat. According to the nonprofit Slow Food USA, the grain is believed to have been planted first by the Opata people in an area less than 50 miles from Magdalena de Kino, the city in Sonora, Mexico, where Guerra traces his family's Latino and Yaqui tribal roots. ("This is going back," he said. "This is real.") While White Sonora was the dominant variety in the western United States for much of the 19th century, it was commercially dead by the 1980s.

In 2014, Guerra joined a campaign to revive the grain led by Native Seeds/Search, a seed bank in Tucson whose offerings are collected from the Southwest region. Guerra helped persuade Arizona growers like BKW Farms to give it a chance by promising to buy part of the harvest for Barrio Bread.

"It was people going to the Sonoran region," he said, "and talking to these small-scale farmers in these valleys making tortillas with it, and saying, 'Hey, can I get a couple Mason jars full of seed?' "

Guerra was born in 1970 in Tempe, just east of Phoenix. His father, Bennie, was a barber; his mother, Denise, who has Irish roots, worked in the home. "There was not a lot of money," Guerra said. "But there was flour." His mother baked breads, cookies, pies.

Guerra's parents encouraged assimilation. His father would recall a whites-only public swimming pool in Tempe in the 1960s, with signs barring Mexican Americans. "For me growing up, it was like, 'Don't speak Spanish out in the community because people will know you're Mexican,' " Guerra said. He calls his embrace of his heritage particularly liberating because of that history of caution.

At 8, Guerra started a shoeshine business in his father's barbershop; by 16, he said, he was managing a diner. A few years later — he doesn't remember how many — Guerra discovered bread. "I had so much hustle behind me," he recalled, "I just needed that product I was totally passionate about. All of a sudden it was like, bread and bakery — this is my jam now."

He picked up basic techniques at the Arizona Bread Co. in North Scottsdale and learned to write a business plan through a community college program.

In 1996, Guerra opened his first bakery, the Village Baker, in Flagstaff, Arizona. He opened a second branch in Ashland, Oregon, a few years later. The bread and pastry menus were huge; Guerra felt perennially exhausted. He sold the business and moved to Tucson in 2000 with his wife, Jen. Thinking he'd pursue a more stable career, he enrolled at the University of Arizona, where he earned a teaching degree.

After seven years teaching math and coaching sports at a public elementary school, Guerra went back to bread. In 2009 he turned his two-car garage into a production kitchen. His former colleagues were among his first customers; he sold bread to teachers, hawked loaves on Shopify and generated lines at farmers markets. He called his business a CSB (community-supported bakery), adopting its name from Barrio Del Este, the Tucson neighborhood where his garage soon began to glow and hum long before the sun came up.

"Sometimes I'm like, 'Wow, I birthed this thing out of my garage,'" Guerra said, laughing. "Look how many cool things came out of garages: Steve Jobs, the Ramones. In other places — for example, Mexico — man, you're a legend if you can kit your house out and you have a little storefront on the side. That person is really respected."

In 2016, after eight years in the garage, Guerra opened his current location in a small 1960s-era shopping mall. The prep area is almost exactly the same size as his old garage; the dimensions make him feel most like himself, he said.

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After Hours Distribution

Jump into spring with tasty tortellini soup

By Amelia Rampe
TheKitchn.com

This tortellini soup is the perfect dish to transition us from the winter cold into the gently warmer spring. Both the deeply flavorful broth and the cheesy tortellini are cozy enough for winter, but light enough for the brighter months ahead — and the addition of early spring vegetables like peas, pea leaves and asparagus give it a vibrant green color to match the sprouting leaves outside. A squeeze of lemon juice, a little dollop of pesto and some extra shaved Parmesan bring each bowl to life.

A simple springtime soup, inspired by tortellini en brodo

When I think of tortellini soup, my mind immediately goes to tortellini en brodo, an Italian dish hailing from the Emilia-Romagna region.

It's traditionally served on Christmas, and the process of making it takes at least a few days. A dark, rich stock is made by boiling capon (a male chicken), the meat is ground with Parmesan and mortadella or prosciutto to create the filling, and then this mixture is stuffed into small tortellini.

While I'll always prefer to make this dish from scratch, sometimes there aren't enough hours in the day (or enough days in the week) to make that a reality.

So when I'm craving tortellini but don't want to make them by hand — or need the comfort of soup without spending the day simmering stock — I turn to this recipe. While there's nothing like homemade, this gets us pretty close.

A shortcut stock that tastes homemade

Since this dish consists of very few elements, it's important that each one gives you all the layers of flavor. This shortcut stock is inspired by my favorite homemade version, which I make with chicken, leeks, garlic, spring alliums and a Parmesan cheese rind. If I'm feeding vegetarians, I'll skip the chicken and just simmer the Parmesan rind and aromatics.

Here, I infuse high-quality, store-bought chicken stock (or frozen pre-made stock or bone broth I keep in my freezer) with extra aromatics and a Parmesan rind, and let it simmer just long enough to allow the flavors to meld with deep cheesy flavor. Vegetarians can start with their favorite store-bought vegetable broth.

As for the tortellini, there are tons of great store-bought brands to choose from. Keep in mind that brands vary in cook times, so be sure to cook your pasta according to package directions. And if you ever do have time, try making tortellini from scratch. This recipe would be great with tortellini stuffed with ricotta, garlic, lemon zest and Parmesan.

This tortellini soup is a perfect dish for the transition from winter to spring. **JASON RAMPE/THEKITCHN.COM**

Spring tortellini soup with peas and asparagus

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
For the brodo:
4 medium scallions or spring onions
4 cloves garlic
10 cups homemade chicken stock or store-bought, low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
1 (1-ounce or larger) Parmesan cheese rind (the larger the rind, the bigger the flavor)
1 large sprig fresh parsley
1 pound asparagus
½ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
1 cup frozen peas
1 (12- to 14-ounce) package fresh or frozen cheese tortellini
Serving options:
Basil pesto, pea leaves, Parmesan cheese, lemon wedges

1. Chop off the whites of 4 medium scallions or spring onions (reserve the greens for another use or slice and use for garnish). Crush 4 garlic cloves with the flat of your knife. Place both in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add 10 cups stock or broth, 1 Parmesan rind and 1 large fresh parsley sprig.

2. Cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Uncover and simmer until the flavors meld, 30 to 35 minutes. Meanwhile, trim off the woody ends of the asparagus, then cut crosswise into 1- to 2-inch pieces.

3. Using slotted spoon, remove scallions, garlic, Parmesan rind and parsley and discard. Add ½ teaspoon kosher salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper to broth. Taste and season with more salt and pepper as needed.

4. Bring the broth back to a boil. Add 1 package tortellini and cook according to package instructions. About 2 minutes before the pasta is cooked, add the asparagus and 1 cup frozen peas. Simmer until the vegetables are bright green and crisp-tender, 2 to 3 minutes.

5. Remove from the heat. Serve hot with a small dollop of pesto, a garnish of pea leaves, shaved Parmesan cheese and lemon wedges, if desired.

This recipe uses baking soda to help keep the meat tender. **AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN**

Secret ingredient brings huge flavor to meat sauce

America's Test Kitchen

Many meat sauce recipes begin by cooking chunks of meat until browned bits stick to the bottom of the pot. Those browned bits are called fond, and they're absolutely packed with savory umami taste. But this recipe uses ground beef rather than chunks of meat, which will turn dry and pebbly if cooked long enough to create a fond.

So, we turned to mushrooms. Mushrooms are packed with umami flavor compounds, too. As you cook them, they begin to brown and form flavor-packed fond on the bottom of the pot. Scraping up all that fond adds loads of umami flavor to your sauce. Bonus: Mixing the ground beef with baking soda helps keep it tender and moist.

Pasta with meat sauce

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
1 pound 85% lean ground beef
2 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon plus ½ teaspoon salt, divided, plus salt for cooking pasta
½ teaspoon baking soda
4 ounces white mushrooms
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
3 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 (28-ounce) can tomato puree
1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 pound pasta
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese (½ ounce), plus extra for serving

1. In a medium bowl, combine beef, water, 1 teaspoon salt and the baking soda. Mix until well combined. Set aside.

2. Trim off the ends of the mushroom stems and discard. Cut mushrooms in half if small or into quarters if large. Add mushrooms and onion to food processor. Pulse until vegetables are chopped fine, about eight 1-second pulses.

3. In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat for 1 minute (oil should be hot but not smoking). Add mushroom mixture to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened and well browned, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in garlic, tomato paste and oregano, and cook for 1 minute.

4. Carefully add beef mixture. Use wooden spoon to break up meat into small pieces.

5. Carefully stir in tomato puree, diced tomatoes and their liquid, and ½ teaspoon salt. Use a wooden spoon to scrape up browned bits on bottom of pot. Bring to simmer, then reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sauce thickens, about 30 minutes.

6. Meanwhile, set a colander in the sink. Add 4 quarts water to a second large pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Carefully add pasta and 1 tablespoon salt to pot. Cook, stirring often with wooden spoon, until pasta is al dente, 10 to 12 minutes.

7. Drain pasta in the colander, reserving ½ cup cooking water. Return drained pasta to now-empty pot.

8. Stir Parmesan cheese into sauce. Add sauce and ¼ cup reserved pasta cooking water to drained pasta. Toss until pasta is well coated with sauce. If needed, add remaining ¼ cup pasta cooking water, a little bit at a time, until sauce is loosened slightly and coats pasta well. Serve with extra Parmesan cheese.

Note: If you don't own a food processor, you can chop the mushrooms and onions very finely by hand using a chef's knife. This sauce makes enough for 1 pound of pasta. Sauce can be frozen for up to one month.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

2 ways to tackle crispy tofu

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

Have you ever had agedashi at a Japanese restaurant? I can't get enough of this dish. Tofu pieces are quickly sauteed in hot oil until each side is golden brown and crisp. Presented on a simple rectangular platter, the Agedashi is accompanied by a sweet sauce of dashi, mirin and soy sauce broth. No matter what else I am ordering, this is always on my list.

In the spirit of this dish, I developed these two recipes. Depending on how you are serving these crispy nuggets, you can cut them into squares, rectangles or triangles.

I like to serve either of these preparations on a bed of vegetable cauliflower rice or mixed greens. Plain rice and some steamed bok choy, spinach or broccoli would also be happy accompaniments. The fried tofu is exceptionally crispy, but there is a good amount of oil in this recipe. The oven-baked method isn't quite as crispy but is still crisp and tasty. I hope you try either or both recipes and put your own signature on them.

Fried tofu is exceptionally crispy. **DREAMSTIME**

Fried crispy tofu with balsamic-soy glaze

Makes: 2 to 4 servings
1 (16-ounce) package extra-firm or firm tofu, cut crosswise into 2 (1-inch-thick) slices
¼ cup cornstarch
Grapeseed oil
For the glaze:
¼ cup balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon soy sauce
Freshly ground black pepper
To serve:
Mixed baby greens
Chopped parsley or chives, for optional garnish

1. Arrange tofu slices on paper towel-lined sheet pan. Place a paper towel on top and then put a heavy pan on top to cover both pieces and let sit for 30 minutes. The tofu will exude excess water.

2. Drain the tofu pieces and place on a cutting board. Cut into desired pieces. I like 2-inch squares, or you can do 4 triangles. Place the cornstarch on a plate and dredge the tofu on all sides. Place on a large plate and reserve.

3. Add the oil to an 11-inch nonstick or cast-iron pan on medium-high heat. Arrange the tofu pieces in the hot oil and cook on each side until nicely browned, about 3 to 4 minutes. Don't crowd the pan. Add more oil if needed and cook the remaining tofu as above. Make sure the pieces are browned on both sides. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels.

4. For the glaze: In a small saucepan combine the vinegar and soy sauce and salt and pepper. On medium-high heat, reduce the mixture on medium-high heat until it is syrupy. Whisk to combine.

5. Arrange baby greens into shallow bowls. Arrange a few pieces of tofu on top, drizzle with the glaze and then finish with chopped parsley or chives. Serve immediately.

Oven-baked crispy tofu with balsamic drizzle

Makes: 2 to 4 servings
1 (16-ounce) package extra-firm or firm tofu, cut crosswise into 2 (1-inch-thick) slices
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon favorite seasoning salt
Store-bought balsamic glaze, for garnish

1. Heat oven to 400 F degrees and line a sheet pan with paper towels. Arrange tofu slices on paper towels. Place a paper towel on top and then put a heavy pan on top to cover both pieces and let sit for 30 minutes. The tofu will exude excess water.

2. Drain tofu and transfer to a cutting board and cut each slab on the diagonal, creating 2 triangles for each piece for a total of 4. Pat them dry with paper towels. Place the tofu pieces on a parchment lined sheet pan.

3. In a small mixing bowl, combine mayonnaise, cornstarch and seasoning salt together and mix until it resembles a paste. Spoon equal amounts of paste on top of each tofu piece. With your finger or small spoon, spread paste on top and sides.

4. Bake until tofu is crisp and golden brown, 25 to 35 minutes. Place on serving plates and drizzle balsamic glaze on top of each piece in a decorative pattern. Serve immediately.